# *MADERA SUBBASIN*

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

## *Joint Groundwater Sustainability Plan*

City of Madera GSA County of Madera GSA – Madera Madera Irrigation District GSA Madera Water District GSA

APPENDIX 2. PLAN AREA AND BASIN SETTING Technical Appendices 2.A. through 2.G.

*January 2020 Amended January 2025*





*Prepared by*

*Davids Engineering, Inc. (Amended GSP) Luhdorff & Scalmanini (Amended GSP) ERA Economics Stillwater Sciences and California State University, Sacramento*



## *Madera Subbasin* Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

## **Joint Groundwater Sustainability Plan**

Technical Appendices 2.A. through 2.G.

## **January 2020 Amended January 2025**

**Prepared For**

Madera Subbasin Coordination Committee

**Prepared By**

Davids Engineering, Inc. (Amended GSP Team) Luhdorff & Scalmanini (Amended GSP Team) ERA Economics Stillwater Sciences and California State University, Sacramento

## **APPENDIX 2. PLAN AREA AND BASIN SETTING**

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#### **APPENDIX 2.A. MADERA SUBBASIN ANNUAL SPATIAL LAND USE**

Prepared as part of the **Joint Groundwater Sustainability Plan Madera Subbasin**

January 2020

**GSP Team:**

Davids Engineering, Inc Luhdorff & Scalmanini ERA Economics Stillwater Sciences and California State University, Sacramento To support GSP development, land use areas in the Madera Subbasin were identified from available data in Madera County, which includes the entire Madera Subbasin.

Annual land use estimates were primarily based on spatially distributed land use information from DWR Land Use surveys in 1995, 2001 and 2011 and Land IQ<sup>1</sup> remote sensing-based land use identification for 2014. County Agriculture Commission land use areas were used to interpolate between years with available spatial land use information. Lands in the District were assigned to one of 17 land use classes.

The following five steps were used to develop the Madera County-wide annual, spatial land use dataset.

- 1.) Developed spatial land use coverages for 1995, 2001, 2011, and 2014. Made adjustments to the spatial coverage, including:
	- a) Filled missing area from LandIQ coverage with 2011 DWR coverage (native, semiagricultural, urban, and water account for 86% of the missing area)
	- b) Used the water area from 2001 for the 1995 DWR survey (water surfaces were not included in the 1995 DWR survey).
- 2.) Calculated agricultural area:
	- a) Assumed county data does not include idle land (county data has idle equal to zero for all years)
	- b) Excluded idle land from DWR agricultural totals to be consistent with county totals
	- c) Calculated the ratio of the DWR agricultural total area (not including idle lands) to county agricultural production area for years with DWR (or Land IQ) land use data
	- d) Estimated agricultural area for missing years between the first and last available county data by interpolating the ratio calculated in step (c)
	- e) Estimated agricultural area for missing years outside the available county data by extending the annual trend or estimating as equal to the nearest available county data
- 3.) Multiplied county agricultural acres for each crop by the ratio calculated in in step 2 (c) to adjust county agricultural areas for each crop scaling each crop area in each year by an estimate of the difference between the areas in the DWR land use surveys and County Commissioner reports. This procedure assumes DWR areas are the most accurate.
	- a) Interpolated native, semi-agricultural, urban, and water land uses between DWR years.
	- b) Calculated idle area as the remaining area (total DWR land use minus total cropped area)
- 4.) Reviewed calculated idle and crop area graphs and adjusted individual annual cropped areas with abnormal crop area shifts based on professional judgement to eliminate calculated negative idle areas
	- a) 1996 adjustments--replaced high miscellaneous truck areas with interpolated values between 1995 and 1997
	- b) 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 adjustments--replaced high areas for mixed pasture and alfalfa between 2001 and 2011 DWR areas by interpolating areas between 2001 and 2011.

 $\overline{\phantom{a}}$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Land IQ is a firm that was contracted by DWR to use remote sensing methodologies to identify crops in fields.

- c) 2012 adjustments--replaced high miscellaneous deciduous, field and truck with interpolated value between 2011 and 2013
- 5.) Implemented the DWR Land Use interpolation tool to create annual spatial cropping data sets.

Table A2.A-1 summarizes the land use sector and average acreage of each land use class in the Madera Subbasin based on the above land use analysis.

<b>Land Use Sector</b>	<b>Land Use Class</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Agricultural	Alfalfa	9,060
	Almonds	36,888
	Citrus and Subtropical	6,613
	Corn (double crop)	7,422
	Grain and Hay Crops	7,831
	Grapes	79,707
	Idle	11,998
	Miscellaneous Deciduous	11,091
	Miscellaneous Field Crops	10,296
	Miscellaneous Truck Crops	2,531
	<b>Mixed Pasture</b>	7,204
	<b>Pistachios</b>	21,709
	Walnuts	1,013
Native Vegetation	<b>Native</b>	98,634
	Water	3,445
Urban	Urban	27,842
	Semi-agricultural	4,289
Total		347,572

*Table A2.A-1. Average Land Use Acreages in Madera Subbasin, 1989 to 2014.*

#### **References**

DWR. 2011. "Madera County land use survey data." State of California, Department of Water Resources. Available online[: https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Water-Use-And-Efficiency/Land-And-Water-Use/Land-](https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Water-Use-And-Efficiency/Land-And-Water-Use/Land-Use-Surveys)[Use-Surveys.](https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Water-Use-And-Efficiency/Land-And-Water-Use/Land-Use-Surveys) Also published in 1995 and 2001.

Land IQ. 2014. "Statewide Crop Mapping 2014." Land IQ, LLC, and State of California, Department of Water Resources. Available online: [https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/CADWRLandUseViewer/.](https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/CADWRLandUseViewer/)

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#### **APPENDIX 2.B. ASSESSMENT OF GROUNDWATER DEPENDENT ECOSYSTEMS FOR THE MADERA SUBBASIN GSP**

Prepared as part of the **Joint Groundwater Sustainability Plan Madera Subbasin** 

January 2020

**GSP Team:** 

Davids Engineering, Inc Luhdorff & Scalmanini ERA Economics Stillwater Sciences and California State University, Sacramento

TECHNICAL APPENDIX • NOVEMBER 2019 Assessment of Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems for the Madera Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan





PREPARED FOR PREPARED BY Madera Subbasin Coordination **Committee** 

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## Stillwater Sciences

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## <span id="page-12-0"></span>**1 GDE IDENTIFICATION**

Groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs) are defined in California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) as "ecological communities of species that depend on groundwater emerging from aquifers or on groundwater occurring near the ground surface" (23 CCR § 351(m)). As described in The Nature Conservancy's guidance for GDE analysis (Rohde et al. 2018), a GDE's dependence on groundwater refers to reliance of GDE species and/or communities on groundwater for all or a portion of their water needs. In this section, we detail the information sources used, new information gathered, and methods applied to make determinations and to describe the conditions of GDEs identified in the Madera Subbasin. We used Rohde et al. (2018) as well as the text of SGMA itself as primary guides.

#### <span id="page-12-1"></span>**1.1 GDE Mapping and Methods**

We began the process of identifying the GDE units in the Madera Subbasin using the California Department of Water Resources' (DWR) iGDE (GDE indicators) database, published online and referred to as the Natural Communities Commonly Associated with Groundwater dataset (Klausmeyer et al. 2018). We augmented these data with other relevant spatial vegetation data, aerial imagery, information on vegetation types, depth to groundwater, plant and animal species distributions in the area, plant species rooting depths, and field observations. Data analysis was conducted through a series of steps to augment, filter, classify and aggregate the GDE polygons within the Madera Subbasin.

#### <span id="page-12-2"></span>**1.1.1 Data sources**

This section includes brief descriptions of the data and other information sources used to identify and aggregate potential GDE polygons into GDE units.

Our starting point for GDE identification and analysis was the iGDE database (Klausmeyer et al. 2018). We downloaded the iGDE geodatabase from the DWR website [\(https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/NCDatasetViewer/#\)](https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/NCDatasetViewer/) and incorporated it into the project geographic information system (GIS) to create a preliminary map to serve as the primary basis for initial identification of potential GDEs. This data set is a combination of the best available data obtained from multiple publicly available sources:

- VegCAMP Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW 2019) – Areas mapped to the alliance level and with a minimum mapping unit (MMU) of 1.0 and 0.25 acres for natural uplands and wetlands/ riparian areas, respectively; mapped using 2012 imagery from the National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) for the Southern San Joaquin Valley.
- NWI v2.0. National Wetlands Inventory (Version 2.0), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS 2018);  $MMU = 0.5$  acres.
- CalVeg Landsat-based classification and assessment of visible ecological groupings, USDA Forest Service (March 2007) – vegetation mapping to the alliance level that is cross-walked to VegCAMP;  $MMU = 2.5$  acres.

In addition, we added a more recent vegetation mapping source for the San Joaquin River riparian corridor, developed by Stillwater Sciences under contract with the Bureau of Reclamation for the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (Bureau of Reclamation 2014). This dataset represents an update to the Geographic Information Center's 2009 vegetation map, prepared for DWR's

Central Valley Flood Protection Program; this update used 2012 NAIP imagery and 2013 field observations. Vegetation was mapped to the alliance level with an MMU of 0.25 acres (Bureau of Reclamation 2014).

Klausmeyer et al. (2018) created the iGDE dataset as a starting point to identify potential GDEs across the state. Per the authors, this dataset requires careful review and refinement with local information since it was created at the state scale and broad decisions were made without consideration of local conditions. Thus, we reviewed all areas included in the iGDE dataset and scanned the full area of the Madera Subbasin, using aerial imagery and existing vegetation mapping, to check for potential GDEs that might have been omitted or mischaracterized during creation of the statewide iGDE dataset.

To inform the assessment of GDE condition and potential effects (Sections 2 and 3), we obtained mapped plant community and wetland types detailed in the original VegCAMP, NWI, and CalVeg datasets as well as the San Joaquin River Riparian Vegetation dataset, the latter of which was available in-house. We evaluated and incorporated information on depth to groundwater and plant species rooting depth into this analysis to help inform subsequent assessment of potential sensitivity of vegetated GDEs to changes in groundwater. Published information on depth of rooting for riparian and wetland plant species was obtained in the form of a database (spreadsheet) collated and made publicly available online by TNC at The Nature Conservancy's Groundwater Resource Hub [\(https://groundwaterresourcehub.org/gde-tools/gde-rooting-depths](https://groundwaterresourcehub.org/gde-tools/gde-rooting-depths-database-for-gdes/)[database-for-gdes/\)](https://groundwaterresourcehub.org/gde-tools/gde-rooting-depths-database-for-gdes/). Where data were missing, Stillwater's vegetation ecologists conducted literature searches to update this database for phreatophyte<sup>[1](#page-13-1)</sup> species occurring within the Madera Subbasin. Depth to groundwater in the regional aquifer was estimated and mapped by LSCE based on existing well data, as described in Section 2.2.2 of this Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and provided as a geodatabase. Information on hydrogeology was used to better understand the distribution of other perched/mounded groundwater in the subbasin (Davids Engineering and LSCE 2017).

#### <span id="page-13-0"></span>**1.1.2 Procedure**

In general, we followed the steps for defining and mapping GDEs outlined in Rohde et al. (2018). Throughout this process, we applied a decision tree to determine when species or biological communities were considered groundwater dependent based on definitions found in SGMA and Rohde et al. (2018). This decision tree, created to systematically and consistently address the range of conditions encountered, is summarized below, where the term 'unit' refers to an area with consistent vegetation and hydrology:

The unit is a GDE if groundwater is:

- 1. An important hydrologic input to the unit during some time of the year, AND
- 2. Important to survival and/or natural history of inhabiting species, AND
- 3. Associated with:
	- a. A perched/mounded<sup>[2](#page-13-2)</sup> unconfined aquifer, OR

<span id="page-13-1"></span> $<sup>1</sup>$  A phreatophyte is a deep-rooted plant that obtains its water from the phreatic zone (zone of saturation) or the capillary</sup> fringe above the phreatic zone (Rohde et al. 2018). Phreatophytes grow where precipitation is insufficient for their persistence and groundwater is therefore required for long-term survival (Naumberg et al. 2005). Phreatophytes are often, but not always, found in riparian areas and wetlands.

<span id="page-13-2"></span> $2$  The degree to which the shallow groundwater is perched or mounded atop shallow clay layers. Mounding is often pronounced underneath rivers which are often the source of the mounded water.

b. A regional aquifer used as a regionally important source of groundwater.

The unit is not a GDE if it is an open water feature (e.g., stream, pond, wetland) whose hydrologic regime is primarily controlled by:

- 1. Surface discharge or drainage from an upslope human-made structure(s), such as irrigation canal, irrigated field, reservoir, cattle pond, water treatment pond/facility; or
- 2. Precipitation inputs directly to the unit surface. This excludes vernal pools from being GDEs where units are hydrologically supplied by direct precipitation and very local shallow subsurface flows from the immediately surrounding area.

In the Madera Subbasin, groundwater occurs as a perched/mounded unconfined aquifer under the San Joaquin River along the southern border of the subbasin and as a regional aquifer throughout much of the western and central portions of the subbasin. In the extreme eastern portion of the subbasin, groundwater occurs in relatively thin alluvium overlying shallow bedrock. Because of the thin alluvium (and hence limited groundwater availability), there is little well data or other information in the eastern part of the subbasin to quantify groundwater depth.

Specifics on the above decision steps, as applied to the Madera Subbasin, are provided below.

#### **1.1.2.1 Identify Communities supporting phreatophytic vegetation**

After obtaining the relevant spatial data described above, we overlaid and evaluated these data in GIS to select the most recent and highest quality vegetation and water body mapping information. In this case, consistent with Klausmeyer et al. (2018), we prioritized the most recent and highest resolution mapping over earlier and coarser scale mapping information. Thus, the order of priority, from first to last, was: San Joaquin River Riparian (Bureau of Reclamation 2014), VegCAMP, NWI v2.0, CalVeg. The highest priority mapped vegetation type polygons that overlapped with the iGDE polygons were summarized by vegetation type and total acreage. These vegetation types were reviewed by one of our experienced wetland and riparian ecologists to remove vegetation types adapted to well drained, upland conditions (i.e., those not considered phreatophytes) from the working GIS layer, such as blue oak woodland (*Quercus douglasii*).

#### **1.1.2.2 Identify potential GDEs based on potential hydrologic connection to groundwater**

We removed iGDEs without a potential hydrological connection to groundwater from the original dataset using spatially extrapolated or interpolated empirical measurements of depth to groundwater (DTW) for winter/spring of water years 2014 and 2016. DTW mapping for 2015 was not used due to limitations resulting from few available water level measurements. The 2014 and 2016 DTW data were the most accurate and recent DTW data available for the Chowchilla Subbasin. While the 2016 data represent conditions after the 2015 SGMA baseline, the use of shallow groundwater data from both years was deemed appropriate because it provided a more conservative (i.e., more inclusive) indicator of potential GDEs than the use of a data from a single year.

A DTW of 30 feet was used as one of the primary criteria in the initial screening of potential GDEs. The use of a 30-foot DTW criterion to screen potential GDEs corresponds to the maximum rooting depth of valley oak, *Quercus lobata* (Lewis and Burgy 1964), one of the species that compose iGDEs in the subbasin and is consistent with guidance provided by The Nature Conservancy (Rohde et al. 2018) for identifying GDEs. Potential GDEs were retained for further analysis if the underlying DTW in either winter/spring 2014 or winter/spring 2016 was equal to or shallower than 30 feet. In addition, we evaluated DTW under the San Joaquin and Fresno rivers during 2014 and 2016 in relation to river flow, and evaluated available surface flow characteristics in other streams and sloughs in the subbbasin to assess the potential connection between surface flow and groundwater levels. If there was evidence that the surface water was connected to groundwater (i.e., a gaining stream), that reach would be eligible for inclusion as a potential GDE. Because the vast majority of rivers and streams in the subbasin are not perennial and all are in a net-losing hydrological condition (i.e., losing water to the groundwater system), this criterion excluded most of the smaller river channels and associated terrestrial vegetation from consideration as GDEs. Thus, we generated a draft map of the potential GDEs that occur in areas where DTW was less than or equal to 30 feet in either water year 2014 or 2016. We used 2012 geospatial vernal pool mapping data (Witham et al. 2014) in combination with aerial photographic analysis to identify vernal pools mapped in the iGDE data set and remove them from the working GIS layer and draft map. Other surface water features such as stock ponds that we determined were not connected to groundwater were removed based on review of aerial photographs and other available information.

#### **1.1.2.3 Refine potential GDE map**

We reviewed for accuracy the mapped vegetation cover in remaining polygons identified as potential GDEs using visual analysis of Google Earth and NAIP imagery. These potential GDE polygons were primarily those dominated by terrestrial vegetation (i.e., vegetated potential GDEs). We removed from the potential GDE map those areas that had, since vegetation mapping occurred, changed land use from natural vegetation to developed uses (urban, roads, or agriculture). During this heads-up review of the potential GDEs, areas supporting riparian or wetland vegetation that were not in the original iGDE geodatabase, but were included in other high-quality datasets (e.g., VegCAMP or San Joaquin River Riparian mapping [Bureau of Reclamation 2014]) and have the potential to be hydrologically linked to groundwater (i.e., located in an area where the depth to water is less than or equal to 30 feet or along a gaining river or stream reach), were added to the potential GDE geodatabase and map. Polygons on the potential GDE map were labeled and color-coded as "kept," "added," or "removed" from the original iGDE data set according to the above described criteria (Figure A2.B-1).



<span id="page-16-0"></span>**Figure A2.B-1.** Potential GDEs in the Madera Subbasin, showing iGDE polygons kept, added, or removed from the DWR Natural Communities Commonly Associated with Groundwater dataset.

#### **1.1.2.3 Identify potentially associated sensitive species and community types**

Stillwater Sciences' ecologists queried existing databases on regional and local occurrences and spatial distributions of special-status species and critical habitat. Databases accessed include CNDDB (2019), CNPS (2019), eBird (2019), USFWS (2019) and NMFS (2016). Spatial database queries were centered on the potential GDEs plus a 5-mile buffer. Stillwater's ecologists reviewed the database query results and identified species and community types with the potential to occur within or to be associated with the vegetation and aquatic communities in or immediately adjacent to the potential GDEs. Stillwater's ecologists then consolidated a list of these sensitive species and community types, along with summaries of habitat preferences and any known occurrence reports, for field review.

#### **1.1.2.4 Ground truth vegetation type and condition in field surveys**

On May 1, 2019, two Stillwater Sciences biologists, one with expertise in vegetation and the other in wildlife, conducted a reconnaissance-level survey of portions of the areas mapped as potential GDEs. The Stillwater team loaded spatial data on potential GDE locations, sensitive species occurrences, and DTW estimates onto a GPS equipped field tablet. The field crew also brought field maps and other information on potential special-status species to the field and visited a subset of the potential GDEs, selected to represent the range of potential GDE vegetation and hydrologic types in the subbasin. At each site, the field biologists recorded dominant vegetation types and plant species, estimates of percent cover for native and non-native plants by vegetation layer, indications of hydrologic connectivity with surface and/or groundwater, and indications of site alteration (e.g., cattle use, human disturbance, land use changes). Based on field observations, the field crew confirmed or refined mapped vegetation types, qualitatively evaluated the ecological condition, and qualitatively assessed habitat conditions for sensitive species at each representative site. The field crew recorded notes on the ecological conditions of each site visited, such as information on the proportion of live vs. senescent canopy, evidence of native species recruitment, and vegetation density. Habitat conditions for each species were assessed by comparing each species' habitat preferences (e.g., large trees, open water or herbaceous cover, etc.) to conditions present at the site. The field crew also recorded observations to help inform or verify potential linkages to groundwater, such as indications of standing water, water emerging from the ground, or water flowing into or off of the site from a contributing area.

#### **1.1.2.5 Refine vegetation and aquifer association for potential GDEs**

We updated our geodatabase with field refinements in mapped vegetation types and extents, as well as location and extent of newly observed potential GDEs identified within the subbasin during the site survey. We then categorized the potential GDEs according to their association with aquifers based on the 2014 and 2016 DTW data. In most cases, the potential GDEs were associated with groundwater where DTW was mapped as less than or equal to 30 feet in 2014 or 2016. However, we also identified one potential GDE located in an area where extrapolated or interpolated DTW was mapped as greater than 30 feet in 2014 and 2016.

#### **1.1.2.6 Document changes to iGDE map and create final GDE map**

We consolidated the remaining GDE polygons by type (e.g., vegetated, riparian) and proximity to one another, giving each grouping a descriptive name. Changes made to the original iGDE map were recorded as they were made, based on desktop or field observation of changes in vegetation type or land use, indications of no hydrologic linkage to groundwater, or open water features in areas where the hydrologic regime is dominated by human intervention as described previously in this section. The final GDE map (Figure A2.B-2) shows these consolidated GDEs, grouped into GDE units, each with a unique color and name. The GDE units are considered "potential" GDEs because of uncertainties regarding the hydrologic connection between the GDEs and groundwater and the degree to which vegetation in the units relies on groundwater. Four potential GDE units occur in the Madera Subbasin: the Fresno River Riparian, Friant Riparian, San Joaquin River Riparian and Sumner Hill GDE units. Figures A2.B-3– A2.B-5 show the GDE units in greater detail.



<span id="page-19-0"></span>**Figure A2.B-2.** Potential GDE units, depth to groundwater, and monitoring well locations in the Madera Subbasin.

<span id="page-20-0"></span>

**Figure A2.B-3.** Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit.



<span id="page-21-0"></span>**Figure A2.B-4.** Sumner Hill, Friant Riparian, and upstream portion of San Joaquin River Riparian potential GDE units.



<span id="page-22-0"></span>**Figure A2.B-5.** San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit, downstream portion.

### <span id="page-23-0"></span>**2 GDE CONDITION**

In this section we characterize the GDE units in the Madera Subbasin based on their hydrologic and ecological conditions and assign a relative ecological value to the units by evaluating their ecological assets and vulnerability to changes in groundwater conditions (Rohde et al. 2018).

#### <span id="page-23-1"></span>**2.1 Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit**

#### <span id="page-23-2"></span>**2.1.1 Hydrologic conditions**

The Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit is located at the eastern margin of the Madera Subbasin along the Fresno River (Figure A2.B-3). Approximately two-thirds of the unit is upstream of the Madera Canal along the Fresno River. Most of the unit lies within Quaternary alluvium and fan deposits (see Chapter 2.2 of this GSP), with Mesozoic granitic rocks along the south bank of the river possibly overlain by recent river sediments. The Corcoran Clay is absent beneath this GDE unit, and there is little information about the substrate here. The hydrogeology in the vicinity of this GDE unit is characterized by shallow bedrock ranging from approximately 0 to 100 feet below ground surface. Because of the very steep hydraulic gradient in this area (in excess of 70 feet per mile; see Chapter 2.2 of this GSP) the nature of the hydraulic connection with the main regional groundwater system in the subbasin is such that groundwater or infiltrating surface water in this area may flow down-gradient along the sloping bedrock surface into the main groundwater system, but any groundwater pumping in the main groundwater basin aquifers is unlikely to impact water levels underlying this GDE unit.

The Fresno River flows through this GDE and is impounded by Hidden Dam to form Hensley Lake approximately 2.5 miles upstream of the GDE unit. Flows in the Fresno River were measured approximately 0.9 miles downstream of Hidden Dam from 1941–1990 where the drainage area is 258 square miles (USGS 11258000). During that period flow was recorded as 0 cubic feet per second (cfs) 11.7 percent of the time and less than 1 cfs 25.3 percent of the time, suggesting that riverine flow is not directly sustaining the GDE year-round. However, it is likely that riverine flows infiltrating into the subsurface on top of shallow bedrock during higher flow periods sustain the vegetation composing this GDE during times of no riverine flows. Simulations using C2VSIM, a groundwater-surface water modeling system designed by DWR for the entire Central Valley, suggest that the Fresno River in the Madera Subbasin has been a net losing stream since at least the 1920s (TNC 2014), with surface flow likely contributing directly to the shallow groundwater system that supports the vegetation in the Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit. The Madera Canal also passes through the GDE unit. Seepage or leaks from the canal may provide a portion of the subsurface water in this area of the subbasin, but the magnitude of its contribution is unknown.

[Figure A2.B-6](#page-24-1) shows observed data and the results of groundwater modeling conducted for this GSP at well MCE RMS-8, located at the downstream end of the Fresno River Riparian GDE unit. Between 1958 and 1980, the well depth declined from about 6–7 ft bgs to 18 ft bgs in 1977. The groundwater elevation then stabilized and shallowed slightly to 12–18 ft bgs through 1987. From 1987 to 1993 the groundwater elevation declined substantially to 29–34 ft bgs and was between 27–39 ft bgs through 2003. The groundwater elevation then increased and remained from 15.9–25 ft bgs from 2005–2014. Observed groundwater depths generally range from slightly below model groundwater depths for layer 1 to slightly below model groundwater depths for layer 2 (Figure A2.B-6). Modeled groundwater depths for model layer 2 ranged up to approximately 50 feet bgs

during the recent drought and about 45 feet bgs during the early 1990's drought, both of which are below the 30-foot maximum rooting depth of plants in the GDE as are the observations after 2005. As noted above, observed data range up to 40 feet bgs, which is also deeper than the 30 foot rooting depth. The cause of the change in groundwater elevation post-2005 is not clear from the data or model results.



<span id="page-24-1"></span>**Figure A2.B-6.** Groundwater depth observation from 1958-2015 and modeled groundwater depth from WY 1989–WY 2015 for well MCE RMS-8 near the Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit. The black line represents Layer 1 in the model and the orange line represents Layer 2. The mean, minimum, and maximum modeled results are only shown for Layer 1 because it is likely the groundwater layer that supports the GDE. Observed data from 1985-2014 are also shown.

#### <span id="page-24-0"></span>**2.1.2 Ecological conditions**

The Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit is composed of a mix of riparian forest, shrub, and herbaceous habitat types. Analysis of existing vegetation mapping data (Klausmeyer et al. 2018), color aerial imagery (ESRI 2017), and May 2019 field reconnaissance conducted in representative portions of the unit determined the quality of riparian habitat in this unit to be high. The riverine, aquatic habitat of the Fresno River is not contained within the GDE unit because available hydrologic data indicates no substantial groundwater contribution to the surface flow in the river in this area (i.e., this reach of the Fresno River does not gain but rather loses water to the groundwater system) and because the hydrology of the river in this area is dominated by releases from Hidden Dam.

The reconnaissance survey of representative portions of the Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit conducted in May 2019 identified several areas of mature riparian forest along the river floodplain (Figure A2.B-7). Vegetation in the unit is over 80% native cover in the shrub and tree layer. Access to the GDE unit was constrained by the presence of private land which precluded observation of native/non-native species composition in the herbaceous layer. Dominant vegetation included mature stands of Fremont cottonwood and Gooding's black willow (*Populus fremontii* and *Salix gooddingii*, respectively) with sandbar willow shrubs (*Salix exigua*) lining sections of the channel. Wildlife observed in the vicinity of this unit included red-tailed hawk, California quail, western kingbird, western bluebird, American robin, ash throated flycatcher, tree swallow, house finch, downy woodpecker, and Swainson's hawk.



**Figure A2.B-7.** Riparian habitat in the Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit. Photo taken May 1, 2019 by Stillwater Sciences.

<span id="page-25-0"></span>The potential for special-status species and their habitat to occur in the Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit, including designated critical habitat for federally listed species, was determined by querying databases on regional and local occurrences and spatial distributions of special-status species, as described in Section 1.1.2. Database query results of local and regional occurrences were combined with known habitat requirements of identified special-status species to develop a list of special-status species that satisfy one or more of the following criteria: (1) known to occur in the region and suitable habitat present in the GDE unit, (2) documented occurrence within the GDE unit and (3) directly observed during the May 1, 2019 reconnaissance survey (Table A2.B-1).

This unit contains, or is in close proximity to, critical habitat for federally listed plant species San Joaquin Valley orcutt grass (*Orcuttia inaequalis*), fleshy owl's-clover (*Castilleja campestris ssp.*), hairy orcutt grass (*Orcuttia pilosa*), and Greene's tuctoria (*Tuctoria greenei*) (USFWS 2019). The PG&E San Joaquin Valley Operations and Maintenance Habitat Conservation Plan

(Jones & Stokes 2006) includes covered lands within the Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit and covers some of the same species identified in our queries as potentially occurring within the unit. However, the queries and field reconnaissance we conducted for this analysis provide more recent and site-specific data on the presence or potential for special-status species to occur in the GDE unit, as well as the overall ecological value, ecological condition trend, and vulnerability to future groundwater changes. Therefore, the information contained in the PG&E Habitat Conservation Plan was not incorporated into our analysis. The unit does not include any known protected lands (CPAD 2018).

#### <span id="page-26-0"></span>**2.1.3 Ecological value**

The Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit was determined to have **high ecological value** because of: (1) the known occurrence and presence of suitable habitat for several special-status species including designated critical habitat for four federally-listed plants (Table A2.B-1); and (2) the vulnerability of these species and their habitat to changes in groundwater levels (Rohde et al. 2018).

#### **Habitat and occurrence**

hing, and nesting habitat present (FRR, FRI, SJRR). Several s near FRR, and in immediate vicinity of SJRR.

ences near FRR, SH, and SJRR.

**Table A2.B-1.** Special-status species with known occurrence, or presence of suitable habitat in the GDE units within the Madera Subbasin.

ging habitat present (SH). Several documented occurrences in the region.

mented occurrences in region.

in Madera County. Moderately suitable nesting and foraging be extirpated from the vicinity of FRI, with last documented currence in the late 1800s.

habitat (FRR, near FRI, SJRR), and foraging habitat nearby nted occurrences near FRR and SJRR. Species was observed One active nest recorded within 4 miles of FRI in 2013.

, and occurrences adjacent SJRR.

ing and roosting habitat (FRR, SJRR).

habitat and roosting habitat (FRR, SJRR).

RR, near FRI) and moderately suitable terrestrial habitat (near tumented occurrences near FRR, FRI, and SJRR.

the region, including including the region is the region of regions included in FRI.

H, FRI, SJRR). Aquatic habitat for foraging and basking is Joaquin River adjacent to FRI, SJRR.

<span id="page-27-0"></span>

#### **Habitat and occurrence**

suitable habitat present (migration, rearing); species known to occur in San Joaquin River and is San Joaquin River Restoration Program

ion, rearing); species known to occur in San Joaquin River

nt; species known to occur in San Joaquin River

FRR). Several documented occurrences in the region

t present (FRR). Several occurrences in the region



#### **Habitat and occurrence**

**FIRE, critical habitat present in or near FRR, SH, FRI.** 

itat present in or near FRR, SH, FRI.



<sup>1</sup> Status codes:<br>G

 $=$  Global

**Federal** State St

FT = Listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act

 $FD = \text{Federally delivered}$ 

 $S =$  Sensitive

- 1B Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere<br>2B Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more comm
- 2B Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere
- More information needed about this plant, a review list
- 4 Plants of limited distribution, a watch list
- CBR Considered but rejected

SE = Listed as Endangered under the California Endangered Species Act

ST = Listed as Threatened under the California Endangered Species Act

SSC = CDFW species of special concern

 $SFP = CDFW$  fully protected species

#### **Global Rank**

1 Critically Imperiled—At very high risk of extinction due to extreme rarity (often 5 or fewer populations), very steep declines, or other factors.

Imperiled—At high risk of extinction due to very restricted range, very few populations (often 20 or fewer), steep declines, or other factors.

3 Vulnerable — At moderate risk of extinction or elimination due to a restricted range, relatively few populations (often 80 or fewer), recent and widespread declines, or other factors.

4 Apparently Secure — Uncommon but not rare; some cause for long-term concern due to declines or other factors.

## **California Rare Plant Rank**

#### **CRPR Threat Ranks:**

- 0.1 Seriously threatened in California (high degree/immediacy of threat)
- 0.2 Fairly threatened in California (moderate degree/immediacy of threat)
- 0.3 Not very threatened in California (low degree/immediacy of threats or no current threats known)

<sup>2</sup> CNDDB 2019, eBird 2019, CPAD 2019, SJRRP 2017a, NMFS 2016

#### <span id="page-30-0"></span>**2.2 Friant Riparian Potential GDE Unit**

#### <span id="page-30-1"></span>**2.2.1 Hydrologic conditions**

The Friant Riparian Potential GDE Unit is located in the uppermost reaches of the San Joaquin River below Friant Dam, extending along the river from the dam approximately 5.5 miles downstream (Figure A2.B-4). The GDE is located within a semi-confined valley lined by bluffs that are 50–100 feet above the river channel (McBain & Trush 2002). The valley is about 0.5 to 1 mile wide, with the valley width increasing downstream. Data from the limited number of DWR well completion reports that are available in this area indicate that depth to bedrock beneath the majority of the Friant Riparian GDE is relatively shallow, ranging from 45 to 75 feet below ground surface (bgs) and increasing from north to south along the river. Atop the shallow bedrock, the Friant Riparian GDE is underlain by Quaternary alluvium derived from the historical gravel and sand deposits from the San Joaquin River. The Corcoran Clay, a major aquiclude, does not occur under the Friant Riparian GDE. The San Joaquin River flows through this area and is impounded by Friant Dam to form Millerton Lake immediately upstream of the GDE unit. Simulations using C2VSIM, a groundwater-surface water modeling system designed by DWR for the entire Central Valley, suggest that the San Joaquin River in this reach has been a net losing stream since at least the 1920s (TNC 2014), with surface flow likely contributing directly to the shallow groundwater that supports the vegetation in the Friant Riparian Potential GDE Unit.

There is essentially no existing shallow groundwater level data for the Friant Riparian GDE area. This area was identified as a shallow groundwater area (DTW less than or equal to 30 feet) based on extrapolation of groundwater level data from farther away. Thus, the actual depth to groundwater in this area is unknown. Review of the limited number of available DWR well logs for wells in this area indicated depths to water ranging from 22 to 39 feet bgs for dates ranging from May 1960 to September 1979 (at the time of well installation). Part of the GSP Implementation Plan will be to further investigate existing wells in this area for verifying presence of shallow groundwater (i.e., less than or equal to 30 feet bgs) and possible inclusion of a well as a representative monitoring station (RMS), if necessary. The combination of shallow depth to bedrock beneath the San Joaquin River in this unit and infiltration of surface flows from the San Joaquin River into the underlying alluvium, along with interpretation of groundwater level data outside the GDE unit area, largely accounts for the interpreted occurrence of shallow groundwater at this location. Seepage or leakage from Friant Dam may also contribute to surface flows and shallow groundwater. A bedrock outcrop area is indicated to occur to the north and northwest and adjacent to this GDE unit. Therefore, groundwater pumping in the main groundwater basin aquifers is unlikely to impact water levels underlying this GDE unit.

#### <span id="page-30-2"></span>**2.2.2 Ecological conditions**

The Friant Riparian Potential GDE Unit is composed of a mix of riparian forest, shrub, and herbaceous habitat types. Analysis of existing vegetation mapping data (Klausmeyer et al. 2018), color aerial imagery (ESRI 2017), and May 2019 field reconnaissance conducted in representative portions of the unit determined the quality of riparian habitat in this unit to be medium. The riverine, aquatic habitat of the San Joaquin River is not contained within the GDE unit because available hydrologic data indicates no substantial groundwater contribution to the surface flow in the river in this area (i.e., this reach of the San Joaquin River does not gain but rather loses water to the groundwater system) and because the river's hydrology in this area is dominated by releases from Friant Dam. However, the riparian vegetation community of the Friant Riparian Potential GDE Unit fulfills several essential ecosystem functions or provides important habitat elements, such as large wood and riparian shade, on which both semi-aquatic

species of the GDE unit and aquatic species of the San Joaquin River depend for completing essential life behaviors. Accordingly, certain special-status species and their habitat in the San Joaquin River are considered in the analyses of potential effects on the Friant Riparian Potential GDE Unit presented herein.

This GDE unit is characterized by pockets of mature riparian forest associated with drainages and surrounded by grasslands on the floodplain of the San Joaquin River (Figure A2.B-8). The canopy is stratified with a moderately open understory. Vegetation in the observed portions of the unit was over 80% native cover in the shrub and tree layer and could be less than 50% native cover in the herbaceous ground layer, with the balance occupied by non-native species. Emergent wetlands observed were dominated by native tules and/or a mix of cattail and tule (*Typha* spp. and *Schoenoplectus spp.*). Dominant vegetation in woody plant communities included Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), Goodding's willow (*Salix gooddingii*), and valley oak (*Quercus lobata*) in the overstory, and sandbar willow (*Salix exigua*) in the shrub layer, interspersed with European grass-dominated herbaceous ground cover and emergent vegetation (tules, cattails) lining the channel edge. Wildlife observed in or in the vicinity of the Friant Riparian Potential GDE Unit included acorn woodpecker, turkey vulture, common raven, ash throated flycatcher, common yellowthroat, black phoebe, and California quail. The unit has suitable habitat for a variety of native plants and animals, including several special-status species (Table 1).



**Figure A2.B-8.** Riparian corridor along the San Joaquin River in the Friant Riparian Potential GDE Unit, observed from Lost Lake Park (Photo taken by Stillwater Sciences, May 1, 2019).

<span id="page-31-0"></span>The potential for special-status species and their habitat to occur in the Friant Riparian Potential GDE Unit, including designated critical habitat for federally listed species, was determined by

querying state and federal databases and via field reconnaissance as described above for the Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit (Section 2.1.2).

The Friant Riparian Potential GDE Unit overlaps, or is in close proximity to, designated critical habitat for California tiger salamander, San Joaquin Valley orcutt grass, hairy orcutt grass, and fleshy owl's clover (USFWS 2019). This unit also contains or overlaps several known protected lands, including several parcels owned or managed by the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, and the State-owned San Joaquin River Ecological Reserve (CPAD 2018). In addition, the adjacent San Joaquin River contains Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for Chinook salmon which is partially dependent on riparian inputs to provide important salmon habitat elements including shade, overhead cover, nutrients, and woody material for instream cover and habitat complexity (PFMC 2014). Information contained in the PG&E Habitat Conservation Plan (Jones & Stokes 2006) was not incorporated into our analysis for reasons described in Section 2.1.2.

#### <span id="page-32-0"></span>**2.2.3 Ecological value**

The Friant Riparian Potential GDE Unit was determined to have **high ecological value** because of: (1) the likely occurrence of several special-status species and presence of suitable habitat for these species in the unit (Table 1), as well as designated critical habitat in or near the unit for several federally-listed species; (2) the presence of protected lands in the unit; and (3) the presence of species and ecological communities considered somewhat vulnerable to slight to moderate changes in groundwater levels (Rohde et al. 2018).

#### <span id="page-32-1"></span>**2.3 San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit**

#### <span id="page-32-2"></span>**2.3.1 Hydrologic conditions**

The San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit extends along the San Joaquin River from Highway 41 downstream to the point near Gravelly Ford where the river is no longer within the Madera Subbasin (Figures A2.B-4 and A2.B-5). The GDE unit is underlain by Quaternary alluvium derived from the historical gravel and sand deposits from the San Joaquin River. Geologic cross sections show that the upper 60–80 ft under the San Joaquin River is sand and gravel/cobbles, with clay along the channel margins (see Chapter 2.2.1 of this GSP). The Corcoran Clay, a major aquiclude, does not occur under the San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit. Shallow clay layers likely form perched/mounded zones beneath the river along this GDE unit which, combined with streamflow infiltration, serve to create and maintain shallow groundwater levels along the river.

The San Joaquin River is currently disconnected from groundwater, with groundwater 20–30 ft below the ground surface, within the potential rooting depth of the vegetation along the river. Flow in the San Joaquin River is strongly controlled by releases from Friant Dam and water infiltrates from the channel bed into the disconnected aquifers below the reach. Groundwater elevation below the GDE is therefore strongly dependent on operations of Friant Dam. The GDE is therefore subject to climate change and associated changes in hydrology of the basin, San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP) flows in the San Joaquin River, and groundwater pumping.

Simulations using C2VSIM, a groundwater-surface water modeling system designed by DWR for the entire Central Valley, suggest the San Joaquin River in this reach was a net losing stream since at least the 1920s (TNC 2014) although the potential for occasional seasonal connection

between shallow groundwater and surface flow is not well documented. The average element size for the C2VSIM modeling was  $0.64$  mi<sup>2</sup>, a much coarser grid than used for the modeling conducted as part of this GSP, and hence the C2VSIM model has a much larger uncertainty in its results.

Groundwater modeling results at three monitoring well locations maintained by the SJRRP was used to assess temporal variation and long-term trends in the shallow groundwater depth associated with this GDE unit. The three wells, MCE RMS-9, MID RMS-17, and MCW RMS-5 are located either within or adjacent to the GDE unit along the San Joaquin River from Highway 41 to just downstream of Gravelly Ford (Figure A2.B-2).

Well MCE RMS-9 is within the mapped extent of the San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit and is located just upstream of the Highway 41 bridge [\(Figure A2.B-2\)](#page-19-0). The well is screened from 17–37 feet bgs. Observed groundwater levels range from about 1 to 12 feet bgs, with an average of 10 feet bgs for the period of record since 2009. From 1988–2015 (water years [WY] 1989–2015), the modeled monthly mean groundwater depth for model layer 1 was 8.1 feet bgs (Figure A2.B-9). Observed groundwater depths during this period were up to 6 feet deeper than the modeled results. In general, the observed depth to groundwater is 10 to 12 feet bgs, and only becomes temporarily shallower during peak flows in the river (Figure A2.B-9). Modeled projected future groundwater levels are generally within the range of modeled historical groundwater levels. The baseline hydrologic conditions for the GDE unit (WY 1989–2015), includes wet periods and two significant droughts (the late 1980s and the middle 2010s). The minimum observed groundwater depth did not change significantly from 2010 to 2018, suggesting that the minimum depth is not changing significantly, even during droughts. All of the observed and modeled groundwater depths are shallower than the 30-foot maximum rooting depth of plants in the GDE.



<span id="page-34-0"></span>**Figure A2.B-9.** Modeled groundwater depths for MCE RMS-9 from WY 1989–WY 2015. Observed data from 2010–2018 are also shown.

Well MID RMS-17 is located within the San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit next to the Highway 145 bridge. The well is screened from 37–57 feet bgs. The observed depths to groundwater range from approximately 7 to 26 feet bgs, with an average of 18 feet bgs for the period of record since 2009. Observed groundwater levels are primarily 14 to 19 feet bgs except during peak flows on the San Joaquin River. Modeled groundwater levels in model layer 1 are generally about 6 to 7 feet below observed levels (Figure A2.B-10). All of the modeled and observed data are shallower than 30 feet bgs, suggesting that the depth does not exceed the maximum rooting depth of plants in the GDE.



<span id="page-35-0"></span>**Figure A2.B-10.** Modeled groundwater depths for MID RMS-17 from WY 1989–WY 2015. Observed data from 2010–2018 are also shown.

Well MCW RMS-5 is located about 50 feet from the San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit about 1.7 miles downstream from Gravelly Ford near the downstream end of the GDE unit. The total depth of the well is 30 feet. The observed groundwater levels range from approximately 4 to 20 feet bgs, with an average of 18 feet bgs for the period of record since 2012. Groundwater levels are generally 15 to 20 feet below ground surface except during San Joaquin River peak flow events. Modeled groundwater levels for model layer 1 were generally 3 to 7 feet shallower than observed levels. All of the modeled and observed depths are shallower than 30 feet bgs (Figure A2.B-11), suggesting that the depth does not exceed the maximum rooting depth of plants in the GDE.


**Figure A2.B-11.** Modeled groundwater depths for MCW RMS-5 from WY 1989–WY 2015. Observed data are also shown.

## **2.3.2 Ecological conditions**

The San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit is composed of several disjunct areas of riparian vegetation along the San Joaquin River from Highway 41 to the point where the river leaves the subbasin south of the intersection of Road 21 and Avenue 5 just downstream of Gravelly Ford (Figures A2.B-4 and A2.B-5). This unit includes portions of the riparian corridor of the San Joaquin River, supporting a mix of riparian forest, shrub, and herbaceous plant communities. Analysis of existing vegetation mapping data (Klausmeyer et al. 2018), color aerial imagery (ESRI 2017), and May 2019 field reconnaissance conducted in representative portions of the unit determined the quality of riparian habitat in this unit to range from low to high, with overall quality considered moderately high.

The riverine, aquatic habitat of the San Joaquin River is not contained within the GDE unit because available hydrologic data indicates no substantial groundwater contribution to the surface flow in the river in this area (i.e., this reach of the San Joaquin River does not gain but rather loses water to the groundwater system) and because the river's hydrology in this area is dominated by releases from Friant Dam. However, the riparian vegetation community of the San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit fulfills several essential ecosystem functions or provides important habitat elements, such as large wood and riparian shade, on which both semiaquatic species of the GDE unit and aquatic species of the San Joaquin River depend for completing essential life behaviors. Accordingly, certain special-status species and their habitat in

the San Joaquin River are included in the analyses of potential effects on the San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit presented herein.

The reconnaissance survey of representative portions of the San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit conducted in May 2019 identified areas of native riparian forest, riparian shrub, grassland (Figure A2.B-12). Vegetation in most of the unit was over 80% native cover in the shrub and tree layer and less than 50% native cover in the herbaceous ground layer, with the balance occupied by non-native species. Dominant vegetation in woody plant communities included Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), Goodding's willow (*Salix gooddingii*), and valley oak (*Quercus lobata*) in the overstory, sandbar willow (*Salix exigua*) in the shrub layer, interspersed with European grass-dominated herbaceous ground cover. Non-native eucalyptus and arundo were observed throughout the unit. Wildlife observed within the San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit included cliff swallow, house wren, bushtit, California scrub jay, spotted towhee, acorn woodpecker, ash throated flycatcher, common yellowthroat, black phoebe, California quail, red-tailed hawk, Anna's hummingbird, northern rough-winged swallow, spotted towhee, red-tailed hawk, northern flicker, osprey, wrentit, western fence lizard, and California ground squirrel. The unit has suitable habitat for a variety of native plants and animals, including several special-status species (Table A2.B-1).



**Figure A2.B-12.** Riparian corridor along the San Joaquin River near Floyd Avenue, between Highways 99 and 145 in the San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit.

The potential for special-status species and their habitat to occur in the San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit, including designated critical habitat for federally listed species, was determined by querying state and federal databases and via field reconnaissance as described above for the Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit (Section 2.1.2).

This GDE unit does not include any known protected lands (CPAD 2018) or critical habitat for federally listed species (USFWS 2019, NMFS 2016) but the adjacent San Joaquin River contains Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for Chinook salmon which is partially dependent on riparian inputs to provide important salmon habitat elements including shade, overhead cover, nutrients, and woody material for instream cover and habitat complexity (PFMC 2014). Information contained in the PG&E Habitat Conservation Plan (Jones & Stokes 2006) was not incorporated into our analysis for reasons described in Section 2.1.2.

## **2.3.3 Ecological value**

The San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit was determined to have **moderate ecological value** because of: (1) the likely occurrence of several special-status species and presence of suitable habitat for these species in the unit (Table A2.B-1); and (2) the presence of species and ecological communities considered somewhat vulnerable to slight to moderate changes in groundwater levels (Rohde et al. 2018).

### **2.4 Sumner Hill Potential GDE Unit**

## **2.4.1 Hydrologic conditions**

The Sumner Hill Potential GDE Unit is located in the eastern portion of the Madera Subbasin, west of the San Joaquin River in the vicinity of the Friant Riparian GDE Unit (Figure A2.B-4). There is considerable uncertainty regarding the potential connection to shallow groundwater in this GDE unit due to a lack of data on depth to shallow groundwater, the source of surface water in the unit, and the connection between shallow groundwater and surface water. Bedrock outcrops of Tertiary non-marine sediments are mapped in the hillslopes adjacent to the GDE unit. The depth to bedrock immediately under the unit is not known, but the presence of the bedrock in adjacent hillslopes suggests that bedrock is very shallow at this site. There are no wells between Highway 41 and the San Joaquin River near Sumner Hill, likely because this area is composed of bedrock. While there is little data on groundwater depth, the paucity of wells suggests that groundwater is limited at this site. Most of the unit is downstream of the Madera Canal, but the degree to which leakage from the canal contributes to the GDE in this unit is unknown. There are also one or more turnouts from Madera Canal into the Sumner Hill drainage. Approximately 0.8 acres of the GDE is upstream of the Madera Canal (Figure A2.B-4), which suggests that the unit is not entirely dependent on leakage and turnouts from the canal. As a result of this uncertainty about the water source and connection to groundwater, the classification of this unit as a GDE is preliminary and biological and hydrologic monitoring is recommended.

The shallow bedrock (and limited groundwater availability) has likely limited groundwater extraction here and would continue to do so in the future. Although changes in hydraulic base level downslope (near the San Joaquin River) are very unlikely, they could potentially affect groundwater elevation near Sumner Hill if groundwater levels along the San Joaquin declined in the future.

## **2.4.2 Ecological conditions**

The Sumner Hill Potential GDE Unit is located along an unnamed tributary to the San Joaquin River west of Sumner Hill in the Madera groundwater basin and is composed of a mix of open water habitat, riparian forest, and emergent wetlands (Figure A2.B-13). This site was evaluated during a reconnaissance visit to the basin and can be characterized as riparian vegetation and a

freshwater emergent wetland on a high terrace fed by what is likely an intermittent drainage that connects to the San Joaquin River downstream of the unit. Analysis of existing vegetation mapping data (Klausmeyer et al. 2018), color aerial imagery (ESRI 2017), and May 2019 field reconnaissance conducted in representative portions of the unit determined the quality of wetland and riparian habitat in this unit to be generally good but with habitat patches ranging from somewhat degraded to excellent quality.

The reconnaissance survey of representative portions of the Sumner Hill Potential GDE Unit conducted in May 2019 identified several areas of ponded water surrounded by mature wetland and riparian vegetation. Vegetation in the unit was over 80% native cover in the shrub and tree layer and dominated by red willow (*Salix laevigata*), Goodding's black willow, Fremont cottonwood, rush and sedge species *(Juncus* spp. and *Carex* spp.), as well as cattails and tules (Figure A2.B-13). Wildlife observed in the vicinity of the Sumner Hill Potential GDE Unit included red-winged blackbird and black phoebe. The unit has suitable habitat for a variety of native plants and animals, including several special-status species (Table A2.B-1).



**Figure A2.B-13.** Open water wetland and associated emergent and riparian habitat in the Sumner Hill Potential GDE Unit. Photo taken by Stillwater Sciences May 1, 2019.

The potential for special-status species and their habitat to occur in the Sumner Hill Potential GDE Unit, including designated critical habitat for federally listed species, was determined by querying state and federal databases and via field reconnaissance as described above for the Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit (Section 2.1.2). This unit overlaps, or is in close proximity to, designated critical habitat for California tiger salamander, San Joaquin Valley orcutt grass, hairy orcutt grass, and fleshy owl's clover (USFWS 2019). This GDE unit does not include any known protected lands (CPAD 2018). Information contained in the PG&E Habitat

Conservation Plan (Jones & Stokes 2006) was evaluated but was not incorporated into our analysis for reasons described in Section 2.1.2.

## **2.4.3 Ecological value**

The Sumner Hill Potential GDE Unit was determined to have **high ecological value** because of (1) the known occurrence of several special-status species and presence of suitable habitat (Table A2.B-1); (2) the presence of designated critical habitat in or near the unit for several federallylisted species; and (3) the presence of species and ecological communities considered somewhat vulnerable to slight to moderate changes in groundwater levels (Rohde et al. 2018).

# **3 POTENTIAL EFFECTS ON GDEs**

This section presents the methods and results of our analysis to identify how groundwater management could affect GDEs in the Madera Subbasin. Adverse effects (impacts) on GDEs are considered undesirable results under SGMA (State of California 2014). The analysis is based on the hydrologic conditions affecting GDEs and their susceptibility to changing groundwater conditions, trends in biological condition of the GDEs, and anticipated conditions or management actions likely to affect GDEs in the future.

## **3.1 Summary**

This section provides a summary of potential effects for each GDE unit in the Madera Subbasin. The methods used to determine a GDE's susceptibility to changing groundwater conditions and its biological condition gradient are described in Section 3.2. Discussion of the methods and rationale for the effects assessments is provided for each GDE unit in Sections 3.3–3.6 below.

### **3.1.1 Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit**

The Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit is characterized as having high ecological value. Based on our assessment that the ecosystem structure and functions of the unit are relatively intact and within the range of natural variability (Biological Condition Gradient Level 2 – Minimal Changes), we have determined that adverse impacts are not likely occurring in the Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit as a result of current groundwater management. The susceptibility of this GDE unit to changing groundwater conditions is low because current and future groundwater conditions are projected to be within the baseline range and because pumping in the main groundwater basin aquifers is unlikely to impact water levels underlying the unit (Table A2.B-2). The methods and rationale for these assessments are described in Section 3.3.







### **3.1.2 Friant Riparian Potential GDE Unit**

The Friant Riparian Potential GDE Unit is characterized as having high ecological value. Based on our assessment that the ecosystem structure and functions of the unit are relatively intact and within the range of natural variability (Biological Condition Gradient Level 2 – Minimal Changes), we have determined that adverse impacts are not likely occurring in the Friant Riparian Potential GDE Unit as a result of current groundwater management. The susceptibility of this GDE unit to changing groundwater conditions is low because pumping in the main groundwater basin aquifers is unlikely to impact water levels underlying the unit and because shallow groundwater levels in this unit will be maintained in large part by continued restoration flows in the San Joaquin River under the SJRRP (Table A2.B-3). The methods and rationale for these assessments are described in Section 3.4 below.







## **3.1.3 San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit**

The San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit is characterized as having moderate ecological value with low susceptibility to changing groundwater conditions (Table A2.B-4). While our assessment of ecosystem structure and functions of the unit suggests certain areas of the unit are relatively intact and within the range of natural variability (Biological Condition Gradient Level 2 – Minimal Changes), other areas of riparian vegetation show evidence of impaired function and condition (Biological Condition Gradient Level 3 – Evident Change). As a result, we have determined that adverse impacts could be occurring in portions of the San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit. However, available evidence (i.e., observed and modeled shallow groundwater depths from nearby wells) suggests that adverse impacts are unlikely to be related to recent or current groundwater management. The methods and rationale for these assessments are described in Section 3.5 below.





## **3.1.4 Sumner Hill Potential GDE Unit**

The Sumner Hill Potential GDE Unit is characterized as having high ecological value. Based on our assessment that the ecosystem structure and functions of the unit are relatively intact and within the range of natural variability (Biological Condition Gradient Level 2 – Minimal Changes), we have determined that adverse impacts are not likely occurring in the Sumner Hill Potential GDE Unit. The susceptibility of this GDE unit to changing groundwater conditions is undetermined because of insufficient groundwater data (Table A2.B-5). The methods and rationale for these assessments are described in Section 3.6, below.





### **3.2 Methods**

This section describes the methods used to determine a GDE's susceptibility to changing groundwater conditions and its biological condition gradient.

To assess potential effects on GDEs, SGMA describes six groundwater conditions that could cause undesirable results. These are (1) chronic lowering of groundwater levels, (2) reduction of groundwater storage, (3) seawater intrusion, (4) degraded water quality, (5) land subsidence, and (6) depletions of interconnected surface water. Rohde et al. (2018) identify chronic lowering of groundwater levels, degraded water quality, and depletions of interconnected surface water as the most likely conditions to have direct effects on GDEs, potentially leading to an undesirable result. Following this guidance and based on available information for the Madera Subbasin, we have eliminated reduction of groundwater storage (groundwater levels are used as a proxy for groundwater storage), seawater intrusion (the subbasin is not located near or hydrologically connected to the ocean), and land subsidence (unlikely to affect GDEs) from consideration.

Current evidence indicates that groundwater pumping from the regional aquifer is unlikely to affect surface water flows in the subbasin, thus depletion of interconnected surface water is considered unlikely. Rivers in the subbasin, including the San Joaquin River and Fresno River, are in a net-losing condition, with surface flow likely contributing directly to the shallow groundwater system that supports the vegetation in the associated GDE units. However, the shallow groundwater system underlying the San Joaquin River does have the potential (albeit quite muted) to be affected by regional groundwater pumping.

In this section we evaluate the potential for chronic lowering of groundwater levels and degraded groundwater quality to cause direct effects on GDEs compared to baseline conditions, with a focus on effects related to groundwater levels. First, we identified baseline hydrologic conditions for the GDE units using available information (see Section 2.2.2 of this GSP). The primary baseline hydrological condition metric used for our analysis was depth to water. Next, we determined each GDE unit's susceptibility to changing groundwater conditions using available hydrologic data and the GDE susceptibility classifications summarized in Table A2.B-6.



#### **Table A2.B-6.** Susceptibility classifications developed for evaluation of a GDE's susceptibility to changing groundwater conditions (Rohde et al. 2018).

We used these susceptibility classifications to trigger further evaluation of potential effects on GDEs by integrating existing biological data, field reconnaissance assessments, and aerial photography analysis. If we determined a GDE unit to have moderate or high susceptibility to changing groundwater conditions, we used biological information to assess whether evidence exists of a biological response to changing groundwater levels or degraded water quality, subject to availability of appropriate data. The biological response analysis consisted of a combined approach of reconnaissance-level biological assessments in representative areas of each GDE unit, and quantitative trend analysis of Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), and Normalized Difference Moisture Index (NDMI) data (Klausmeyer et al. 2019). The polygons correspond to different GDE mapping units (i.e., different species compositions) and the size of the GDE polygons varied.

NDVI, which estimates vegetation greenness, and NDMI, which estimates vegetation moisture, were generated from surface reflectance corrected multispectral Landsat imagery corresponding to the period July 9 to September 7 of each year when GDE species are most likely to use groundwater (see Klausmeyer et al. 2019 for further description of methods). Vegetation with

higher NDVI values indicate increased density of chlorophyll and photosynthetic capacity in the canopy, an indicator of vigorous, growing vegetation. Similarly, high NDMI values indicate that the vegetation canopy has high water content and is therefore not drought stressed. These indices are both commonly used proxies for vegetation health in analyses of temporal trends in health of groundwater dependent vegetation (Rouse et al. 1974, Jiang et al. 2006; as cited in Klausmeyer et al. 2019). NDVI and NDMI trend analysis included compilation of NDVI and NDMI trend data from 1985 to 2018 for all delineated GDE polygons from the GDE Pulse Interactive Map (Klausmeyer et al. 2019) that are within the GDE unit boundaries. These data were used to calculate mean NDVI and NDMI, and 95% confidence intervals, by year for each GDE unit as a whole, and then change in mean NDVI/NDMI was visually inspected to identify increasing, decreasing, or no change in temporal trends over the period from 1985 to 2018. Negligible changes were identified as those that failed to exceed the level of uncertainty in mean values as indicated by 95% confidence intervals.

To examine the effect of variable precipitation on NDVI/NDMI, annual precipitation data for each GDE was downloaded from the GDE Pulse Interactive Map (Klausmeyer et al. 2019), and multiple linear regression analysis was used to evaluate potential relationships between precipitation and vegetation health. A weak correlation was interpreted as a weak coupling between precipitation and NDVI/NDMI, suggesting a comparatively stronger influence of groundwater conditions on NDVI/NDMI. We also evaluated the effect of surface water flows on NDVI/NDMI using the San Joaquin Valley Index (SJVI), which is calculated by DWR and is a function of San Joaquin flow into Millerton Reservoir, Merced River flow into Lake McClure, Tuolumne River flow to New Don Pedro Reservoir, and Stanislaus River flow into New Melones Reservoir (CDEC 2019). The index is used to determine water year type and flow releases in the San Joaquin River and its major tributaries. Because the SJVI is used to determine flow releases into the San Joaquin Valley and includes the previous year's hydrologic condition, it is a good proxy for hydrologic conditions experienced by GDEs located along San Joaquin Valley rivers. SJVI was not included in the regression analysis because preliminary analysis found that SJVI strongly covaries with annual precipitation. Annual precipitation was selected for use in the regression analysis because of evidence in the scientific literature of its strong correlation with remotely sensed vegetation metrics, and groundwater levels (Huntington et al. 2016, Groeneveld 2008). Results of these analyses are presented in Sections 3.3–3.6 below.

Reconnaissance-level biological assessments were used to determine the overall condition of the vegetation and terrestrial habitat within each GDE unit, assess evidence of recent riparian tree recruitment, and detect biological indications of degraded water quality. Field observations were augmented with analysis of recent (2017 and 2018) aerial photographs to assess the degree to which field observations were consistent with trends detected in aerial photographs as well as spatial variability across the GDE units.

These field-based, and remotely sensed biological data sources were used to identify any apparent trends in biological condition of the GDEs. These trends were evaluated over the period 1985– 2018 (NDVI/NDMI) and 2017–2019 (field-based and aerial photograph analysis) within the Biological Condition Gradient classification scheme (USEPA 2016) (Table A2.B-7). To assess impacts to GDEs, minimal or evident changes (Levels 2 and 3) were considered to indicate the potential for impacts due to changing groundwater conditions, with further data collection and analysis (i.e., monitoring) needed to evaluate the connection between impacts and groundwater management, if any. Moderate to severe changes (Levels 4–6), if detected, were considered to indicate adverse impacts to GDEs and therefore undesirable results in the subbasin.





## **3.3 Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit**

### **3.3.1 Hydrologic data**

#### **3.3.1.1 Baseline conditions**

To determine baseline conditions and assess susceptibility of the Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit, depth to groundwater data was examined for the one well located in close proximity to the unit (well MCE RMS-8; Figure A2.B-14). The location of the well is shown in Figure A2.B-2. The baseline hydrologic conditions for the Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit were assessed using the modeled period from October 1988 to September 2015 (WY 1989–2015). Despite the abrupt change in observed groundwater depth from 2004 to 2005 (Figure A2.B-14), we use the entire 1988–2015 period as the baseline condition because it incorporates two

droughts, which are most likely to impact the health of the GDE. This well was determined to be suitable for evaluation of the groundwater dynamics and trends of the Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit because it is in close proximity to the unit, has a depth to water range that includes measurements of less than 30 feet (maximum rooting depth of phreatophytic vegetation), and was monitored and modeled during the entire baseline period.

Groundwater quality data is not available for the shallow groundwater system associated with the Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit.



**Figure A2.B-14.** Simulated historical (black line and dark orange line 1990–2015 for model Layer 1 and Layer 2, respectively) and modeled projected (grey line and light orange line 2016–2090 for Layer 1 and Layer 2, respectively) monthly groundwater depth to water for well MCE RMS-8 near the Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit. Observed data are represented by blue plus signs. The solid horizontal lines represent the mean modeled groundwater depth for the historical (black) and projected post-implementation (2020-2090) (grey) periods, while the horizontal dashed lines represent the maximum and minimum groundwater depth for the historical (black) and projected (grey) periods. The horizontal green line represents the maximum depth (30 feet) at which phreatophytic plants can access groundwater.

### **3.3.1.2 Susceptibility to potential effects**

Modeled depth to water for the historical (i.e., baseline; 1988–2015) and future (2020–2090) periods is very similar for well MCE RMS-8 in the Fresno River Riparian GDE for Layer 1 and Layer 2 (Figure A2.B-14). The observed data from 1985 to 2014 for MCE RMS-8 ranges from

approximately 12 to 40 feet bgs, with an average of 28 feet bgs. Projected future modeled groundwater levels for model Layers 1 and 2 fall within the range of modeled historical water levels. Relative to the historical model results (1988–2015), the mean depth for model Layer 1 from 2020–2090 decreases from 5.6 to 5.1 feet, and the maximum and minimum modeled groundwater depths are within 0.3 feet of the historical modeled values (Table A2.B-8). A similar stability is seen for Layer 2 at this site where relative to the historical model results (1988–2015), the mean depth for model Layer 2 from 2020–2090 decreases from 31.6 to 30.4 feet, and the maximum and minimum modeled groundwater depths are within 0.5 feet of the historical modeled value (Table 8). In general, the modeled groundwater elevations for Layer 1 are shallower than the maximum rooting depth (30 feet) and for Layer 2 are close to the maximum rooting depth. Although the observed changes to the groundwater elevation between 2003 and 2005 are not captured by the model, model Layer 2 adequately represents the groundwater elevation variability since 2005 and the observed groundwater elevations are between the Layer 1 and Layer 2 model results. The mean modeled depth of 30.4 feet for model Layer 2 approximates the 30-foot maximum rooting depth of GDE plant species. Observed depths to water recorded at this well suggest the shallow groundwater ranges from about 10 feet above to 10 feet below the modeled values for model Layer 2.





Groundwater level data suggest that future groundwater conditions in the Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit are projected to remain within the baseline range. Modeled trends in depth to water during the historical and projected future time periods suggest stable or slightly increasing groundwater levels in the Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit. The hydrogeology of the unit suggests that pumping in the main aquifers is unlikely to impact water levels underlying the

unit. As a result, the Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit was determined to have **low susceptibility** to groundwater conditions falling outside the baseline range. Nevertheless, given the uncertainty in the modeling of groundwater, this GDE should be monitored to assess ecological conditions and trends, particularly during drought or if pumping in the Upper Aquifer increases.

## **3.3.2 Biological data**

Average summer NDVI and NDMI for the period 1985–2018 indicate some fluctuations but very little overall change in both indices in the Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit (Figures A2.B-15 and A2.B-16). NDVI for individual, mapped polygons ranges from approximately 0.25 to 0.55, and mean NDVI for all polygons was lowest in 1986 (0.30) and highest in 2016 (0.45) (Figure A2.B-15). Mean NDVI between 1985 and 2018 showed a negligible increase (0.09) during this period. NDMI for individual, mapped polygons shows a similar trend to NDVI but with values ranging from approximately -0.15 to 0.20 (Figure A2.B-16). Mean NDMI for all polygons was lowest in 2014 (-0.07), and highest in 2017 (0.06). Mean NDMI also showed a small increase (0.06) between 1985 and 2018. NDVI in the Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit is somewhat decoupled from SJVI. While NDVI increased during wet years from 1995– 1997, it dropped slightly but was generally high through the 2014–2016 drought (Figure A2.B-15). NDMI was more responsive to droughts and river flow volumes than NDVI (Figure 16).

To evaluate the influence of precipitation on these indices, annual precipitation data for the individual GDE polygons composing the Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit were analyzed using multiple linear regression to assess the effect of year and annual precipitation on NDVI/NDMI. Annual precipitation was not a statistically significant predictor variable of mean NDVI ( $p = 0.54$ ) and explained little of the variation in NDVI ( $R^2 = 0.01$ ). Likewise, annual precipitation was not a statistically significant predictor variable of mean NDMI ( $p = 0.45$ ) and showed little explanatory power of the variation in NDMI ( $R^2$  = 0.02). Together, these results suggest that shallow groundwater conditions likely have a greater influence on the health of groundwater dependent vegetation within the Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit than does local, annual precipitation.

A reconnaissance field assessment of the Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit documented presence of recent riparian willow recruitment in a portion of the unit. The riparian vegetation observed appeared very healthy, with dense, green canopies at multiple layers with evidence of recent growth. Analysis of recent satellite imagery corroborates these field observations.



**Figure A2.B-15.** Summer NDVI from 1985–2018 for all GDE polygons composing the Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit (light grey lines). The green line represents the mean NDVI for all GDE polygons within the Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit and gray dashed lines are 95% confidence intervals around the mean. Blue bars represent the San Joaquin Valley Index for each water year.



**Figure A2.B-16.** Summer NDMI from 1985–2018 for all GDE polygons composing the Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit (light grey lines). The green line represents the mean NDMI for all GDE polygons within the Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit and gray dashed lines are 95% confidence intervals around the mean. Blue bars represent the San Joaquin Valley Index for each water year.

## **3.3.3 Potential effects**

Reconnaissance level biological assessments, aerial photograph analysis, and NDVI/NDMI data indicate adverse ecological impacts are not likely occurring in the Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit. Shallow groundwater underlying the Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit appears tightly coupled with surface flow and runoff and likely is generally maintained at depths within or near the rooting depth range of riparian species present in the unit. The Fresno River flows adjacent to the Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit and is in a net-losing condition, with surface flow likely contributing directly to the shallow groundwater system that supports the vegetation in the unit. Evidence of recent riparian tree recruitment (within 5 years) observed in the Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit, along with high-density, healthy vegetation at multiple layers and the presence of these attributes throughout the unit, suggests that baseline groundwater levels (i.e., those occurring prior to 2015) and current groundwater levels (since 2015) are sufficient to maintain ecosystem functions essential for the survival and reproduction of riparian plant species. In addition, trends in NDVI/NDMI show little to no change in overall vegetation health within the unit. Although past fluctuations in these indices appear correlated with periods of drought in the San Joaquin River Basin (e.g., 2012–2016), both indices have rebounded since 2017. Based on these recent historical response patterns, it appears the dominant native vegetation composing the Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit is sufficiently resilient to maintain ecosystem integrity and function in the face of predicted fluctuations in groundwater conditions around the recent historical baseline level. The mean groundwater

elevation in the shallow aquifer associated with this GDE unit is predicted to become slightly shallower during the period from 2020–2090, suggesting the potential for maintenance of current conditions or a modest positive ecological response by the vegetation composing the unit.

Riparian vegetation condition and NDVI/NDMI trends within the GDE unit also indicate groundwater quality is not limiting ecosystem functions essential for the survival and reproduction of riparian plant species. Rohde et al. (2018) list declining NDVI/NDMI, reduced tree canopy and understory, shifts in vegetation type, tree mortality, and habitat fragmentation as indicators of adverse impacts, however, none of these was detected within the GDE unit. Because the NDVI/NDMI assessment was confined to the GDEs mostly mapped in 2014, our analysis does not account for potential reduction in the extent of riparian vegetation (and hence a reduction in the area of the polygons) prior to the vegetation mapping.

The response of perennial, resident wildlife and vegetation to groundwater dynamics in the Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit is not well understood because population dynamics during the baseline period are not known. Many of these species survived the droughts in the early 1990s and the mid-2010s, but the effects on the species and their susceptibility to future changes are unknown. Appropriate data for evaluating these relationships is not readily available but, if obtained, could provide insight to additional interactions between groundwater conditions and biological responses, leading to a more complete evaluation of potential adverse impacts. Recommendations for monitoring to provide additional data for this purpose are included in Section 5.

## **3.4 Friant Riparian Potential GDE Unit**

### **3.4.1 Hydrologic data**

### **3.4.1.1 Baseline conditions**

Because there are no representative wells currently available in the vicinity of the Friant Riparian Potential GDE Unit baseline groundwater levels could not be defined. It is likely, however, that shallow groundwater conditions in the Friant Riparian Potential GDE Unit are closely tied to flow releases from Friant Dam. Seepage or leakage from the dam may also contribute to shallow groundwater underlying the GDE unit. If shallow groundwater elevations are closely tied to flow releases from Friant Dam, changes to the operations of Friant Dam have the potential to alter shallow groundwater levels in this GDE unit. In particular, the beginning of SJRRP interim flow releases in 2009 and restoration flow releases in 2014, and since 2017 likely helped to maintain shallower groundwater levels in the GDE since 2009.

### **3.4.1.2 Susceptibility to potential effects**

Given the paucity of data and model limitations, the susceptibility to potential hydrological effects in this GDE cannot be determined using quantitative data (i.e., modeled or observed groundwater levels). Shallow groundwater underlying the GDE unit is likely perched/mounded atop a shallow clay or bedrock layer, and groundwater is likely dependent upon flow releases from Friant Dam. Decreases in flow releases would likely cause the groundwater level to become deeper. Similarly, increased local surface or groundwater pumping could cause the elevation of the groundwater used by the GDE to decline. The increase in the average NDVI and NDMI since the onset of increased flow releases from Friant Dam in 2009, as discussed below, suggests that shallow groundwater depths may be closely linked to Friant Dam releases.

The hydrogeology of the Friant Riparian Potential GDE Unit suggests that pumping in the main aquifers is unlikely to impact water levels underlying the unit. Further, continued SJRRP restoration flow releases from Friant Dam and possibly continued seepage or leakage from the dam are expected to contribute to shallow groundwater levels in this GDE unit. As a result, the Friant Riparian Potential GDE Unit was determined to have **low susceptibility** to groundwater conditions falling outside the baseline range. Nevertheless, given the lack of groundwater data, this GDE should be monitored to assess ecological conditions and trends, particularly during drought or if pumping in the Upper Aquifer increases.

## **3.4.2 Biological data**

Average summer NDVI and NDMI for the period 1985–2018 indicate small increases and modest fluctuations in both indices in the Friant Riparian Potential GDE Unit (Figures A2.B-17 and A2.B-18). NDVI for individual, mapped polygons ranges from approximately 0.15 to 0.72, and mean NDVI for all polygons was lowest in 1987 (0.32) and highest in 2014 (0.51) (Figure A2.B-17). Mean NDVI between 1985 and 2018 showed a small increase (0.14). NDMI for individual, mapped polygons shows a similar trend to NDVI but with values ranging from approximately - 0.20 to 0.35 (Figure A2.B-18). Mean NDMI for all polygons was also lowest in 2002 (-0.006), and highest in 2018 (0.14). Mean NDMI also showed a small increase (0.11) between 1985 and 2018.

Prior to 2011, the summer NDVI for the Friant Riparian Potential GDE Unit was slightly coupled to the SJVI, with small increases during wetter water years and small decreases during drier water years (Figure A2.B-17). Large increases in NDVI starting in 2010 were sustained through the dryer years from 2012–2016, with a slight decrease in 2017 and 2018, with these changes decoupled from the SJVI. NDMI was more closely tied to SJVI than NDVI prior to 2009, with decreases in NDMI associated with SJVI decreases (Figure A2.B-18). Since 2009 the steady increase in NDMI showed no relationship with the dryer water years occurring from 2012–2016.



**Figure A2.B-17.** Summer NDVI from 1985–2018 for all GDE polygons composing the Friant Riparian Potential GDE Unit (light grey lines). The green line represents the mean NDVI for all GDE polygons within the Friant Riparian Potential GDE Unit and gray dashed lines are 95% confidence intervals around the mean. Blue bars represent the San Joaquin Valley Index for each water year.



**Figure A2.B-18.** Summer NDMI from 1985–2018 for all GDE polygons composing the Friant Riparian Potential GDE Unit (light grey lines). The green line represents the mean NDMI for all GDE polygons within the Friant Riparian Potential GDE Unit and gray dashed lines are 95% confidence intervals around the mean. Blue bars represent the San Joaquin Valley Index for each water year.

Annual precipitation was not a statistically significant predictor variable of mean NDVI ( $p =$ 0.88) and explained little of the variation in NDVI ( $R^2$  = <0.001). Likewise, annual precipitation was not a statistically significant predictor variable of mean NDMI ( $p = 0.06$ ) and showed little explanatory power of the variation in NDMI ( $R^2 = 0.11$ ). Together, these results suggest that shallow groundwater conditions likely have a greater influence on the health of groundwater dependent vegetation within the Friant Riparian Potential GDE Unit than does local, annual precipitation.

A reconnaissance field assessment of the Friant Riparian Potential GDE Unit documented presence of recent (within 5 years) willow recruitment in a portion of the unit. The riparian vegetation observed appeared very healthy, with dense, green canopies at multiple layers with evidence of recent growth. Analysis of recent satellite imagery corroborates these field observations.

## **3.4.3 Potential effects**

Reconnaissance level biological assessments, aerial photograph analysis, and NDVI/NDMI data indicate adverse impacts are not likely occurring in the Friant Riparian Potential GDE Unit.

Shallow groundwater levels in the Friant Riparian Potential GDE Unit are likely independent of pumping elsewhere in the subbasin because bedrock outcrops and shallow bedrock help to isolate the shallow groundwater in the unit from the rest of the subbasin. The high-density, healthy vegetation at multiple layers in the unit suggests that current and recent historical groundwater levels are sufficient to maintain ecosystem functions essential for the survival and reproduction of riparian plant species. In addition, trends in NDVI/NDMI show little to no change in overall vegetation health within the unit and no apparent response to periods of drought in the San Joaquin Basin (e.g., 2012–2016) or recent years with wetter conditions since 2017. Based on the recent historical conditions and trends, it appears the dominant vegetation composing the Friant Riparian Potential GDE Unit is sufficiently resilient to maintain ecosystem integrity and function in the face of predicted climate fluctuations and potential increases in drought frequency and magnitude. Based on the limited evidence available, it is unlikely that groundwater pumping is affecting or would affect this GDE unit.

Vegetation condition and NDVI/NDMI trends within the GDE unit also indicate groundwater quality is not limiting ecosystem functions essential for the survival and reproduction of riparian and wetland species. Rohde et al. (2018) list declining NDVI/NDMI, reduced tree canopy and understory, shifts in vegetation type, tree mortality, and habitat fragmentation as indicators of adverse impacts that can result from degraded water quality, however, none of these was detected within the GDE unit. Because the NDVI/NDMI assessment was confined to the GDEs mostly mapped in 2014, our analysis does not account for potential reduction in the extent of riparian vegetation (and hence a reduction in the area of the polygons) prior to the vegetation mapping.

The response of perennial, resident wildlife and vegetation to groundwater dynamics in the Friant Riparian Potential GDE Unit is not well understood because population dynamics during the baseline period are not known. Many of these species survived the droughts in the early 1990s and the mid-2010s, but the effects on the species and their susceptibility to future changes are unknown. Appropriate data for evaluating these relationships is not readily available but, if obtained, could provide insight to additional interactions between groundwater conditions and biological responses, leading to a more complete evaluation of potential adverse impacts. Recommendations for monitoring to provide additional data for this purpose are included in Section 5.

## **3.5 San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit**

### **3.5.1 Hydrologic data**

#### **3.5.1.1 Baseline conditions**

To determine baseline conditions and assess susceptibility of the San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit to changing groundwater conditions, depth to groundwater data was examined for the three monitoring wells along the length of the GDE unit assessed in Section 2: MCE RMS-9, MID RMS-17, and MCW RMS-5 (Figures A2.B-19– A2.B-21). The locations of these wells are shown in Figure 2. These wells were determined to be suitable for evaluation of the groundwater dynamics and trends of the San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit because they are in close proximity to the unit, have depths to water less than 30 feet (maximum rooting depth of phreatophytic vegetation), and model results at these locations are available for review over the entire baseline period and can be compared to observed data since 2009. The baseline hydrologic conditions were assessed using the modeled period from October 1988 to September 2015 (WY 1989–2015). We use the entire 1988–2015 period as the baseline condition because it incorporates two droughts, which are most likely to impact the health of the GDE. The

initiation of SJRRP flow releases from Friant Dam starting in 2009 likely affected the depth of shallow groundwater associated with this GDE unit, and may have an influence on the groundwater hydrography over the baseline period. Releases from Friant Dam likely have a positive influence on ecological condition of the GDE, but have been curtailed during critically dry years typical of droughts.



**Figure A2.B-19.** Simulated historical (black line 1990–2015) and modeled projected (grey line 2016–2090) monthly groundwater depth to water for well MCE RMS-9. Observed data (blue plus signs) were recorded hourly. The solid horizontal lines represent the mean modeled groundwater depth for the historical (black) and projected postimplementation (2020-2090) (grey) periods, while the horizontal dashed lines represent the maximum and minimum groundwater depth for the historical (black) and projected (grey) periods. The horizontal green line represents the maximum depth (30 feet) at which phreatophytic plants can access groundwater.



**Figure A2.B-20.** Simulated historical (black line 1990–2015) and modeled projected (grey line 2016–2090) monthly groundwater depth to water for well MID RMS-17. Observed data (blue plus signs) were recorded hourly. The solid horizontal lines represent the mean modeled groundwater depth for the historical (black) and projected postimplementation (2020-2090) (grey) periods, while the horizontal dashed lines represent the maximum and minimum groundwater depth for the historical (black) and projected (grey) periods. The horizontal green line represents the maximum depth (30 feet) at which phreatophytic plants can access groundwater.



**Figure A2.B-21.** Simulated historical (black line 1990–2015) and modeled projected (grey line 2016–2090) monthly groundwater depth to water for well MCW RMS-5. Observed data (blue plus signs) were recorded hourly. The solid horizontal lines represent the mean modeled groundwater depth for the historical (black) and projected postimplementation (2020-2090) (grey) periods, while the horizontal dashed lines represent the maximum and minimum groundwater depth for the historical (black) and projected (grey) periods. The horizontal green line represents the maximum depth (30 feet) at which phreatophytic plants can access groundwater.

Data from all three wells suggest a potential tight coupling between variable surface flow in the San Joaquin River and the shallow groundwater associated with the GDE unit. Observed depth to water data is available from 2009-present for wells MCE RMS-9 and MID RMS-17, and from 2012-present for well MCW RMS-5. Observed depth to water varies by approximately 10–20 feet during the periods of observation depending on the well, with all observed water depths well within the maximum phreatophyte rooting depth of 30 feet (Figures A2.B-19–A2.B-21, Table [A2.B-9\)](#page-60-0). Simulated values back to 1988 indicate fluctuations of +/**-** 10 feet, with mean depth ranging from approximately 8 feet (observed mean is 10 feet bgs) for well MCE RMS-9 to 25 feet (observed mean is 18 feet bgs) for well MID RMS-17 and no apparent increasing or decreasing trend at any of the three wells.

Groundwater quality data is available for multiple wells and constituents in the vicinity of the San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit (see Chapter 2.2.2.3 of this GSP). Maximum total dissolved solids concentration in the shallow groundwater of the GDE unit is typically < 250 mg/L. Other constituents fall below applicable thresholds for environmental protection and human health at wells near the GDE unit.

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#### **Table A2.B-9.** Statistics of observations and monthly modeled well depth for MCE RMS-9, MID RMS-17, and MCW RMS-5 near the San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit.

#### **Susceptibility to potential effects**

Modeled depth to water for the historical (1988–2015) and future modeling (2020–2090) periods are very similar for MCE RMS-9, MID RMS-17, and MCW RMS-5 for the San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit (Figures A2.B-19– A2.B-21). Relative to the historical model results, the mean depth is within 0.1 feet for all three wells, and the maximum modeled groundwater depths from 2020–2090 are deeper than historical modeled values by 0.1–0.3 feet for the three wells, while the minimum values are 0.0–0.5 ft deeper (Table A2.B-9). For all three wells, the maximum modeled and observed depths for the 2020–2090 period are shallower than the 30-foot maximum rooting depth of GDE species and do not exceed historical modeled low values. Together, these data suggest that the susceptibility to potential adverse effects related to groundwater management is low for the San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit. Nevertheless, given the uncertainty in the modeling of groundwater, this GDE should be monitored to assess ecological conditions and trends, particularly during drought or if pumping in the Upper Aquifer increases.

Projected future trends in depth to water for the representative groundwater wells are similar to recently observed trends with regard to groundwater fluctuations and mean depth to water. Combined, annual trends in depth to water during the observed and projected time periods suggest stable groundwater conditions in the San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit. As a result, the San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit was determined to have **low susceptibility** to groundwater conditions falling outside the baseline range.

Similar to the baseline data, shallow groundwater elevations in the future will likely be tied to flow releases from Friant Dam. Changes to the operations of Friant Dam therefore have the potential to alter shallow groundwater levels in this GDE. In particular, the continuation of SJRRP restoration flow releases is likely to help maintain shallow groundwater levels in the aquifer associated with the GDE.

### **3.5.2 Biological data**

Average summer NDVI and NDMI for the period 1985–2018 indicate small fluctuations and a small overall increase in both indices in the San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit (Figures A2.B-22 and A2.B-23). NDVI for individual, mapped polygons ranges from approximately 0.20 to 0.70, and mean NDVI for all polygons was lowest in 1989 (0.36) and highest in 2014 (0.51) (Figure A2.B-22). Mean NDVI between 1985 and 2018 showed a negligible increase (0.09). NDMI for individual, mapped polygons shows a similar trend to NDVI but with values ranging from -0.15 to 0.40 (Figure A2.B-23). Mean NDMI for all polygons was lowest in 1990 (0.04), and highest in 1998 (0.12). Like NDVI, mean NDMI also showed a negligible increase (0.04) between 1985 and 2018.

Prior to 2011, variations in the summer NDVI of the San Joaquin River Riparian GDE were coupled to the SJVI, with small increases during wetter water years and small decreases during drier water years (**Error! Reference source not found.**). Large increases in NDVI starting in 2010 were sustained through the dryer years from 2012–2016, with a slight decrease in 2017 and 2018, a pattern that is decoupled from the SJVI. NDMI was also coupled to SJVI prior to 2009, with decreases in NDMI associated with SJVI decreases (Figure A2.B-23). Following 2009, there has been a steady but small increase in NDMI that does not reflect the dryer water years from 2012–2016 shown by the large reduction in SJVI.



**Figure A2.B-22.** Summer NDVI from 1985–2018 for all GDE polygons composing the San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit (light grey lines). The green line represents the mean NDVI for all GDE polygons within the San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit and gray dashed lines are 95% confidence intervals around the mean. Blue bars represent the San Joaquin Valley Index for each water year.



**Figure A2.B-23.** Summer NDMI from 1985–2018 for all GDE polygons composing the San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit (light grey lines). The green line represents the mean NDMI for all GDE polygons within the San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit and gray dashed lines are 95% confidence intervals around the mean. Blue bars represent the San Joaquin Valley Index for each water year.

Annual precipitation was not a statistically significant predictor variable of mean NDVI ( $p =$ 0.91), and explained little, if any, of the variation in NDVI ( $R^2 = \le 0.001$ ). Likewise, annual precipitation was not a statistically significant predictor variable of mean NDMI ( $p = 0.13$ ), and showed little explanatory power of the variation in NDMI ( $R^2 = 0.07$ ) Together, these results suggest that shallow groundwater conditions likely have a greater influence on the health of groundwater dependent vegetation within the San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit than does local, annual precipitation and that, until 2009, vegetation health was correlated with runoff and streamflows in the San Joaquin Basin.

A reconnaissance field assessment of the San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit documented little evidence of recent riparian tree recruitment in portions of the unit visited. Some riparian vegetation observed in the unit appeared very healthy, with dense, green canopies at multiple layers with evidence of recent growth, but other areas showed less healthy riparian vegetation. Analysis of recent satellite imagery corroborates these field observations.

## **3.5.3 Potential effects**

Reconnaissance level biological assessments, aerial photograph analysis, and NDVI/NDMI data indicate that some areas of the GDE unit exhibit signs of proper functioning and healthy riparian vegetation communities, while other areas may be experiencing adverse impacts. However,

available evidence (i.e., observed and modeled shallow groundwater depths from nearby wells) suggests that adverse impacts are unlikely to be related to recent or current groundwater management. Groundwater in the San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit appears tightly coupled with surface flow in the San Joaquin River and is generally maintained at depths within the rooting depth range of riparian species present in the unit. Modeling of shallow groundwater at all three representative wells in the GDE unit suggests no expected changes in mean groundwater levels compared with the baseline period, and no exceedances of historical low groundwater levels. In the Madera Subbasin, the San Joaquin River flows adjacent to the San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit and is in a net-losing condition, with surface flow likely contributing directly to the shallow groundwater system that supports the vegetation in the unit. Although evidence of recent riparian tree recruitment and high-density, healthy vegetation at multiple layers is lacking within some areas of the San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit, values and trends in NDVI/NDMI for the unit as a whole appear to mask this disparity in vegetation condition among sites.

Despite no apparent decline in NDVI or NDMI in the San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit since 1985, current riparian vegetation condition indicates adverse impacts have likely been occurring within portions of the GDE unit. Potential causes of localized degradation of riparian vegetation health could include curtailed SJRRP flow releases in the San Joaquin River during the recent drought (and variable spatial response by shallow groundwater beneath the GDE unit), or locally degraded groundwater quality. However, evidence is insufficient to indicate which, if any, of these factors may be influencing riparian vegetation in the unit. Rohde et al. (2018) list reduced tree canopy and understory, shifts in vegetation type, tree mortality, and habitat fragmentation as indicators of adverse impacts, which were detected within the GDE unit and recommend assessing baseline conditions of at least 10 years. However, because the NDVI/NDMI assessment was confined to the GDEs mostly mapped in 2014, our analysis does not account for potential reduction in the extent of riparian vegetation (and hence a reduction in the area of the polygons) prior to the vegetation mapping.

The response of perennial, resident wildlife and vegetation species to groundwater levels and groundwater quality in the San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit is not well understood because population dynamics during the baseline period are not known. Many of these species survived the droughts in the early 1990s and the mid-2010s, but the effects on the species and their susceptibility to future changes are unknown. Appropriate data for evaluating these relationships is not readily available but, if obtained, could provide insight to additional interactions between groundwater conditions and biological responses, leading to a more complete evaluation of potential adverse impacts including the possibility that factors unrelated to groundwater management are causing impacts to the GDE unit. Recommendations for monitoring to provide additional data for this purpose are included in Section 5.

## **3.6 Sumner Hill Potential GDE Unit**

### **3.6.1 Hydrologic data**

### **3.6.1.1 Baseline conditions**

Because data from shallow groundwater wells are not available for the Sumner Hill Potential GDE Unit it was not possible to define the baseline conditions for the unit. Given the likely occurrence of shallow bedrock beneath this GDE unit it is likely that groundwater depths are linked to local precipitation and leakage from the Madera Canal.

Groundwater quality data is available for one well in the vicinity of the Sumner Hill Potential GDE Unit (see Chapter 2.2.2.3 of this GSP). Maximum total dissolved solids concentration in the shallow groundwater of the GDE unit is  $\leq$  250 mg/L. Other constituents fall below applicable thresholds for environmental protection and human health at the single well near the GDE unit.

### **3.6.1.2 Susceptibility to potential effects**

Due to the shallow bedrock and lack of local wells, it is unlikely that groundwater in the Sumner Hill Potential GDE Unit is currently being affected by groundwater pumping or would be affected in the future. The hydrogeology in the vicinity of this GDE unit limits the potential that groundwater pumping elsewhere in the Madera Subbasin would affect the shallow groundwater associated with the unit.

It is unlikely that the shallow groundwater conditions associated with the Sumner Hill Potential GDE Unit will change in the future due to groundwater pumping in the regional aquifer. However, changes to local precipitation or changes in leakage from the Madera Canal may alter the groundwater condition to some degree. The magnitude of these potential impacts is unknown, and monitoring the health of the GDE may be the best way to assess future impacts. Due to the disconnection from the regional aquifer and the lack of pumping near the GDE, the Sumner Hill Potential GDE Unit was determined to have **low susceptibility** to groundwater conditions falling outside the baseline range.

## **3.6.2 Biological data**

Average summer NDVI and NDMI for the period 1985–2018 indicate modest fluctuations and a small increase in both indices in the Sumner Hill Potential GDE Unit (Figures A2.B-24 and A2.B-25). NDVI for individual, mapped polygons ranges from approximately 0.20 to 0.60, and mean NDVI for all polygons was lowest in 1985 (0.30) and highest in 2013 (0.45) (Figure A2.B-24). Mean NDVI between 1985 and 2018 showed a negligible increase (0.09). NDMI for individual, mapped polygons shows a similar trend to NDVI but with values ranging from -0.30 to 0.25 (Figure A2.B-25). Mean NDMI for all polygons was lowest in 1990 (-0.09), and highest in 2017 (0.08). Similar to NDVI, mean NDMI showed a small increase (0.1) between 1985 and 2018.

Prior to 2011, variations in the summer NDVI of the Sumner Hill Potential GDE Unit were coupled to the SJVI, with small increases during wetter water years and small decreases during drier water years. Large increases in NDVI starting in 2010 or 2011 were sustained through the dryer years from 2012–2016, with a slight decrease in 2017 and 2018, and these trends were decoupled from the SJVI. NDMI was also coupled to SJVI prior to 2009, with decreases in NDMI associated with SJVI decreases. After 2009, however, there has been a steady but small increase in NDMI that was largely decoupled from the SJVI values during the dryer water years from 2012–2016. The reasons for the steady NDVI and NDMI levels during the 2012–2016 drought are not known, but are also observed in the San Joaquin River Riparian and Friant Riparian GDE units. Because the Sumner Hill Potential GDE Unit does not extend into the Sierras and is not associated with a major river or stream, we would expect the unit to be less strongly influenced by the regional SJVI than riparian GDEs along the San Joaquin River.



**Figure A2.B-24.** Summer NDVI from 1985–2018 for all GDE polygons composing the Sumner Hill Potential GDE Unit (light grey lines). The green line represents the mean NDVI for all GDE polygons within the Sumner Hill Potential GDE Unit and gray dashed lines are 95% confidence intervals around the mean. Blue bars represent the San Joaquin Valley Index for each water year.





Annual precipitation was not a statistically significant predictor variable of mean NDVI ( $p =$ 0.53), and explained little, if any, of the variation in NDVI ( $R^2$  = 0.012). Annual precipitation was also not a statistically significant predictor variable of mean NDMI ( $p = 0.45$ ), and showed little explanatory power of the variation in NDMI ( $R^2 = 0.0117$ ). Together, these results suggest that groundwater conditions, or surface water supplies originating from a source other than precipitation and runoff (i.e., the Madera Canal), likely have a greater influence on the health of groundwater dependent vegetation within the Sumner Hill GDE Potential Unit than does local, annual precipitation.

A reconnaissance field assessment of the Sumner Hill Potential GDE Unit in May 2019 did not document presence of recent riparian tree recruitment within the GDE unit, but the mature riparian trees and shrubs observed at the site appeared healthy and vigorous. Analysis of recent satellite imagery corroborates these field observations.

## **3.6.3 Potential effects**

Reconnaissance level biological assessments, aerial photograph analysis, and NDVI/NDMI data indicate adverse impacts are not likely occurring in the Sumner Hill Potential GDE Unit. Groundwater in the Sumner Hill Potential GDE unit is apparently very shallow and unlikely to be affected by pumping in the regional aquifer. The high-density, healthy vegetation at multiple

layers in the unit suggests that current and recent historical groundwater levels are sufficient to maintain ecosystem functions essential for the survival and reproduction of riparian plant species and maintenance of wetland habitat. In addition, trends in NDVI/NDMI show little to no change in overall vegetation health within the unit and no apparent response to periods of drought in the San Joaquin Basin (e.g., 2012–2016) or recent years with wetter conditions (2017 and 2018). Rohde et al. (2018) list reduced tree canopy and understory, shifts in vegetation type, tree mortality, and habitat fragmentation as indicators of adverse impacts, none of which were detected within the GDE unit, and recommend assessing baseline conditions of at least 10 years. However, because the NDVI/NDMI assessment was confined to the GDEs mostly mapped in 2014, our analysis does not account for potential reduction in the extent of riparian vegetation (and hence a reduction in the area of the polygons) prior to the vegetation mapping.

Based on the recent historical conditions and trends, it appears the dominant vegetation and wetland habitat composing the Sumner Hill Potential GDE Unit is sufficiently resilient to maintain ecosystem integrity and function in the face of predicted climate fluctuations and associated increases in drought frequency and magnitude. Based on the limited evidence available, it is unlikely that groundwater pumping is affecting or would affect this GDE unit.

Vegetation condition and NDVI/NDMI trends within the GDE unit also indicate groundwater quality is not limiting ecosystem functions essential for the survival and reproduction of riparian and wetland species. Rohde et al. (2018) list declining NDVI/NDMI, reduced tree canopy and understory, shifts in vegetation type, tree mortality, and habitat fragmentation as indicators of adverse impacts that can result from degraded water quality, but none of these was detected within the GDE unit.

The response of perennial, resident wildlife and vegetation species to groundwater levels and groundwater quality in the Sumner Hill Potential GDE Unit is not well understood because of the paucity of groundwater wells and because population dynamics during the baseline period are not known. Many of these species survived the droughts in the early 1990s and the mid-2010s, but the effects on the species and their susceptibility to future changes are unknown. Appropriate data for evaluating these relationships is not readily available but, if obtained, could provide insight to additional interactions between groundwater conditions and biological responses, leading to a more complete evaluation of conditions and trends in this GDE unit. Recommendations for monitoring to provide additional data for this purpose are included in Section 5.

# **4 SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT CRITERIA**

Sustainable management criteria for the Madera Subbasin were developed using information from stakeholder and public input, correspondence with the GSAs, public meetings, hydrogeologic analysis, and meetings with GSA technical representatives. The sustainable management criteria and methods used to establish them are described in Chapter 3 of this GSP.

## **4.1 Sustainability Goals**

The sustainability goal developed for the Madera GSP is expected to maintain the ecological integrity and function of the San Joaquin River Riparian GDE Unit. This includes maintenance of riparian habitat conditions for special-status species and other native species in the unit or those likely to occur, and provision of important ecosystem support functions for native aquatic species in the adjacent San Joaquin River. The GSP's sustainability goal would be achieved by

implementing a package of projects and management actions that will, by 2040, balance longterm groundwater system inflows with outflows based on a 50-year period representative of average historical hydrologic conditions. The GSP's sustainability goal is unlikely to affect the hydrological or ecological conditions of the other GDE units in the Madera subbasin, as these GDE units are not expected to be affected by groundwater management under the GSP.

## **4.2 Minimum Thresholds for Sustainability Indicators**

Minimum thresholds for the applicable sustainability indicators are described in Section 3.3 of this GSP. The minimum thresholds for chronic lowering of groundwater levels, the sustainability indicator most likely to affect GDEs in the subbasin, are based on selection of representative monitoring sites from among existing production and monitoring wells located throughout the subbasin and screened in both the Upper and Lower Aquifers. The representative monitoring sites for the subbasin include the four wells described herein that represent shallow groundwater conditions associated with the GDE units in the subbasin. Therefore, minimum thresholds have been established that are applicable to GDEs. Model results for wells representing the Fresno River Riparian GDE Unit and the San Joaquin River Riparian GDE Unit indicate that shallow groundwater levels during the GSP implementation and sustainability periods will be maintained at levels consistent with the historical range of depth to groundwater. In addition, restoration flows in the San Joaquin River under the SJRRP are expected to provide continued hydrologic inputs contributing to long-term support of the Friant Riparian Potential GDE Unit and the San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit.

Based on this information, the vegetation communities composing the GDE units in the subbasin are expected to be largely unaffected by sustainable groundwater management in the Madera Subbasin and thus the minimum thresholds are not expected to cause adverse impacts to GDEs.

### **4.3 Objectives and Interim Milestones**

Measurable objectives and interim milestones for the applicable sustainability indicators are described in Section 3.3 of this GSP. Measurable objectives and interim milestones for groundwater levels, the sustainability indicator most likely to affect GDEs in the subbasin, have been established for the four wells described herein that are considered to represent the shallow groundwater conditions associated with the GDE units in the subbasin.

# **5 GDE MONITORING**

Data on San Joaquin River riparian forest condition and extent, as well as surface water and shallow groundwater hydrology of the San Joaquin River, are among the types of information that have been collected, analyzed, and reported under the auspices of the SJRRP. The SJRRP is currently monitoring shallow groundwater in several wells along the San Joaquin River in the Madera Subbasin. However, the ecological characteristics and hydrologic dependencies of the San Joaquin River Riparian GDE Unit and the other GDE units in the subbasin are not currently the subject of regular, systematic monitoring as part of any known program. Actions to improve the existing monitoring network may be warranted so that GDE conditions can be thoroughly documented and impacts to GDEs can be detected. Biological data should be collected with sufficient spatial and temporal coverage to adequately characterize the reliance of GDEs on groundwater and, together with evaluation of associated hydrologic data, to monitor the response

of GDEs to groundwater management, including projects and management actions proposed to be implemented under this GSP (Section 6).

The Fresno River Riparian and Friant Riparian potential GDE units have high ecological value and low susceptibility to changing groundwater conditions. The Sumner Hill Potential GDE Unit also has high ecological value but its susceptibility to changing shallow groundwater conditions cannot be determined based on a lack of shallow groundwater data. None of these GDE units shows evidence of adverse impacts and the likelihood of future impacts related to groundwater management is low. The San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit has moderate ecological value with low susceptibility to changing groundwater conditions, but currently exhibits evidence of some adverse impacts. The cause of these impacts cannot be determined using available data. To improve the understanding of relationships between groundwater management and potential ecological effects, the following types of monitoring recommended by Rohde et al. (2018) should be considered in all four GDE units in the Madera Subbasin:

- Annual desktop monitoring using simple biological indicators such as remote sensing indexes (NDVDaviI/NDMI) and aerial photograph analysis to monitor changes in vegetation condition, growth, and the spatial extent of the GDE.
- Biological surveys (e.g., vegetation transects) conducted at regular intervals (minimum every 5 years or more frequently if needed based on the desktop surveys or biological surveys that indicate the GDE condition or extent has declined) to document baseline biological conditions and changes corresponding to GSP implementation and groundwater management.

Biological monitoring data should be evaluated as part of an adaptive management framework to facilitate improvements in the monitoring program and refinement of projects and management actions or implementation of new actions to avoid adverse impacts to GDEs.

# **6 PROJECTS AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

Implementation of the GSP will require the Madera Subbasin to be operated within its sustainable yield by 2040. To ensure the subbasin meets its sustainability goal by 2040, the GSAs have proposed projects and management actions to address undesirable results (see Chapter 4 of this GSP). To achieve this, GSAs may implement projects to increase groundwater recharge, reduce groundwater pumping, or both.

Because no undesirable results were identified for the GDE units in the subbasin under baseline, existing, or projected future with-project conditions, no GDE-specific projects or management actions were developed for this GSP. Effects on GDEs resulting from increased groundwater recharge and reduced groundwater pumping are expected to be beneficial, as groundwater levels accessed by vegetation in the Fresno River Riparian Potential GDE Unit and the San Joaquin River Riparian Potential GDE Unit are expected to remain relatively similar to historical and recent baseline conditions, thus maintaining an accessible and reliable water source. Increased groundwater recharge and reduced groundwater pumping are not expected to affect the Friant Riparian Potential GDE Unit or the Sumner Hill Potential GDE Unit.

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# **APPENDIX 2.C. NOTICE AND COMMUNICATION**

Prepared as part of the **Joint Groundwater Sustainability Plan Madera Subbasin**

> January 2020 Amended January 2025

> > **GSP Team:**

Davids Engineering, Inc (Amended GSP Team) Luhdorff & Scalmanini (Amended GSP Team) ERA Economics Stillwater Sciences and California State University, Sacramento

#### 2.C. Notice and Communication

- 2.C.a. Madera Subbasin Stakeholders Communication and Engagement Plan
- 2.C.b. Madera Subbasin Interested Parties List
- 2.C.c. Madera Subbasin Engagement Matrix
- 2.C.d. Madera Subbasin Stakeholder Input Matrix
- 2.C.e. Responses and Comments

## **APPENDIX 2.C. NOTICE AND COMMUNICATION**

#### **2.C.a. Madera Subbasin Stakeholders Communication and Engagement Plan**

Prepared as part of the **Joint Groundwater Sustainability Plan Madera Subbasin** 

January 2020

**GSP Team:** 

Davids Engineering, Inc Luhdorff & Scalmanini ERA Economics Stillwater Sciences and California State University, Sacramento

# **Madera Subbasin**

**Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan** June 2018 (updated October 2018)

*NOTE: In order to ensure an adaptive, responsive approach to stakeholder outreach and engagement, it is intended that the components of this plan be developed in collaboration with the Madera Subbasin stakeholders, beginning with the GSA managers, board members, and staff. This process has already begun, and this version incorporates the results of that collaboration to date. The plan will be updated as the collaborative process continues.*

Prepared by the California State University of Sacramento (CSUS)

# **Contents**





# **Madera Subbasin Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan June 2018**

# <span id="page-80-0"></span>Purpose

The purpose of this Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan is to assist Madera Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in their efforts to develop general and strategic communications to engage stakeholders in groundwater management activities.

# <span id="page-80-1"></span>Overview and Background

California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of 2014 requires broad and diverse stakeholder involvement in GSA activities and the development and implementation of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) for 127 groundwater basins around the state, including the Madera Subbasin. The intent of SGMA is to ensure successful, sustainable management of groundwater resources at the local level. Success will require cooperation by all stakeholders, and cooperation is far more likely if stakeholders have consistent messaging of valid information and are provided with opportunities to help shape the path forward.

To that end, the intention of the Communication and Engagement Plan is to:

- Provide GSAs, community leaders, and other beneficial users a roadmap to follow to ensure consistent messaging of SGMA requirements and related Madera Subbasin information and data.
- Provide a roadmap to GSAs and community leaders to ensure stakeholders have meaningful input into GSA decision-making, including GSP development.
- Ensure the roadmap demonstrates a process that is widely seen by stakeholders as fair and respectful to the range of interested parties.
- Make transparent to stakeholders their opportunities to contribute to the development of a GSP that can effectively address groundwater management within the Madera Subbasin.
- Ensure that information reaches all beneficial users who have an interest in the Basin.

# <span id="page-81-0"></span>Communication Plan Goals

The plan seeks to accomplish the following goals:

- 1. Educate stakeholders about:
	- A. SGMA and its requirements,
	- B. Individual GSAs within the Madera Subbasin,
	- C. Potential changes to current groundwater management under SGMA, and
	- D. How stakeholders will be represented in their GSAs.
- 2. Communicate important SGMA deadlines and dates.
- 3. Coordinate outreach and engagement activities between GSAs to ensure efficiency and to support stakeholders in GSP development.
- 4. Articulate strategies and channels for obtaining ongoing stakeholder input and feedback to inform GSP design and development.
- 5. Provide a roadmap to GSAs on ways to effectively and efficiently reach ALL elements of the population.
- 6. Encourage stakeholder engagement (e.g., by establishing dedicated SGMA outreach strategies and channels, communicating information about meeting and workshop dates and content, and highlighting all opportunities for stakeholders to provide input in the GSA decision-making process and GSP planning process).

# <span id="page-81-1"></span>Major Audiences

A Madera Subbasin stakeholder is a "beneficial user" as described by SGMA. Under the requirements of SGMA, all beneficial uses and users of groundwater must be considered in the development of GSPs, and GSAs must encourage the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population. Beneficial users, therefore, are any stakeholders who have an interest in groundwater use and management in the Madera Subbasin community. Their interest may be related to GSA activities, GSP development and implementation, and/or water access and management in general.

To assist in determining who the specific SGMA stakeholders and beneficial users are, DWR has created a Stakeholder Engagement Chart for GSP development in their 2017 *GSP Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Guidance Document*. The following table (Table A2.C.a-1) is based on the DWR chart, modified to fit the circumstances and stakeholders of the Madera Subbasin. It can continue to be updated during the GSP planning process.



#### <span id="page-82-0"></span>Table A2.C.a-1. Stakeholder Engagement Chart for GSP Development

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<span id="page-82-1"></span><sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The groups and communities referenced are examples identified during initial assessment. GSA Interested Parties lists shall maintain current and more exhaustive lists of stakeholders fitting into these groups.



# <span id="page-83-0"></span>Key Messages

As GSAs begin the process of reaching out to stakeholders to inform and engage them in groundwater management issues and items, it is critical that GSAs share clear and consistent key messages to avoid confusion and misunderstanding. Key messages are as follows:

- 1. Seven GSAs have formed to ensure local control of groundwater management in the Madera Subbasin:
	- o Madera County GSA
	- o City of Madera GSA
	- o Madera Irrigation District GSA
	- o Root Creek Water District GSA
	- o Madera Water District GSA
- o Gravelly Ford Water District GSA, and
- o New Stone Water District GSA
- 2. Management elements include GSP decision-making, funding, implementation and enforcement.
- 3. GSAs are committed to proactively and sustainably managing groundwater in the Subbasin.
- 4. The GSP will manage water usage and impact on diverse groups of beneficial users, including, without limitation, disadvantaged communities, agricultural users, residential users, and environmental water uses.
- 5. GSAs shall ensure compliance with SGMA to prevent state intervention.
- 6. GSAs seek to coordinate efforts in managing their respective portions of the Subbasin to achieve compliance with SGMA.
- 7. Six of the GSAs—Madera County GSA, City of Madera GSA, Madera Irrigation District GSA, Root Creek Water District GSA, Madera Water District GSA, and Gravelly Ford Water District GSA (hereinafter collectively referred to as Coordinating GSAs)—intend to develop a single GSP. New Stone Water District will develop a separate GSP.
- 8. The Coordinating GSAs and New Stone Water District will enter into a coordination agreement to implement these GSPs.
- 9. The GSAs are committed to proactive and transparent outreach and engagement with stakeholders and Subbasin community members during the GSP planning process, implementation, and beyond.

# <span id="page-84-0"></span>Decision-Making

The Madera Subbasin Coordinating GSAs shall be the primary decision-making bodies for the Madera Subbasin. These GSAs shall coordinate and develop recommendations for GSA decision-making through a Coordination Committee. GSAs and their staff representatives will engage with Subbasin stakeholders through the strategies outlined in this plan to help inform the GSAs' decisions, including public participation stakeholder roundtables, GSP workshops, and public comment during Coordination Committee meetings and GSA Board meetings. While the Coordination Committee provides recommendations on GSP development, the GSA Boards shall serve as the final decisionmakers for the Madera Subbasin. The following schematic (Figure A2.C.a-1) demonstrates the processes and opportunities for input that are intended to guide decision-making and stakeholder engagement in the Madera Subbasin.



<span id="page-85-0"></span>Figure A2.C.a-1. Opportunities for Stakeholder input re: GSA Decision-Making

# <span id="page-85-1"></span>Recommended Communication Strategies and Mechanisms

This Communication and Engagement Plan is designed to meet the needs of the Subbasin as a whole. To maximize efficiency and support consistent messaging, it is appropriate that some outreach activities be conducted on a basin-wide level. However, it is also important to recognize that under SGMA each GSA has its own responsibility for engagement of the beneficial users within its boundaries.

To support the Subbasin as a whole, the GSP technical team will be responsible for basinwide outreach planning and implementation. Examples include maintenance of a basinwide Interested Parties list, emailed announcements of Technical Workshops and Roundtable meetings, and creation of meeting summaries for those meetings.

In addition, individual GSA representatives and staff will need to engage with their own stakeholders and will be responsible for tracking the needs of their local communities. GSAs will consider stakeholder input gathered from outreach efforts as they move through GSP development and implementation processes. Three sets of strategies are important to consider when planning outreach and engagement activities, included in the following categories:

- 1. SGMA-required: the law requires GSAs to undertake specific types of outreach and engagement activities.
- 2. Essential strategies centrally communicated at the Subbasin and GSA service area level: activities proven to successfully engage stakeholders.
- 3. Secondary strategies locally communicated at the GSA service area and beneficial user level: activities that will enhance engagement efforts on a local and asneeded basis. These strategies are recommended for engaging specific stakeholder groups.

#### <span id="page-86-0"></span>SGMA-Required Strategies

SGMA strongly encourages broad stakeholder engagement in development and implementation of GSPs. According to SGMA:

- "The groundwater sustainability agency shall encourage the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the groundwater basin prior to and during the development and implementation of the groundwater sustainability plan." [CA Water Code Sec. 10727.8(a)]
- "The groundwater sustainability agency shall consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater." [CA Water Code Sec. 10723.2]

GSAs are given broad discretion in the methods and processes utilized to meet engagement requirements, but the methods are required to "successfully" engage all stakeholders, including elements of the population that are hard to reach. SGMA explicitly authorizes GSAs to form Public Advisory Committees if they choose, but does not require them to do so. The decision to form an advisory committee is left to the individual GSA based on the need and effectiveness of these processes within their communities. However, SGMA does have several GSA‐specific requirements regarding public notice, public hearings, and public meetings. Requirements include:

- 1. Within 30 days of electing to be (or forming) a GSA, the GSA must inform the State of this development and its intent to manage groundwater sustainably. In doing so, the GSA must:
	- A. Include a list of parties who wish to receive "plan preparation, meeting announcements, and availability of draft plans, maps, and other relevant documents," and
	- B. Explain how the interested parties' perspectives will be considered, both during the development and operation of the GSA and during development and implementation of the GSP. This information must also be sent to the legislative bodies of any city and county in the area covered by the plan.

Illuminating the term "interested parties," SGMA requires that GSAs consider the interests of "all beneficial uses and users of groundwater," along with entities expected to share responsibilities for implementing GSPs. As a starting point, SGMA specifies a number of types of "interested parties." The GSA must maintain its list of interested parties on an ongoing basis. Anyone who wishes to be put on this list can do so upon making this request in writing. [CA Water Code Section 10730. (b) (2); 10723.2; 10723.4; and 10723.8. (a)]

2. GSAs planning to develop a GSP must provide notice of their intent to do so to the public and the state before proceeding. The notice must describe opportunities for interested parties to participate in the development and implementation of the GSP. This written notice must be provided to the legislative bodies of any city or county located within the basin to be managed by the GSP. [CA Water Code Section 10727.8. (a)]

#### Phase 1: 2015-2017

#### Phase 2: 2017-2022



- 3. A GSA seeking to adopt or amend a GSP must provide notice to cities and counties within the area encompassed by the proposed plan or amendment, and consider comments provided by the cities and counties. Cities and counties receiving the notice may request consultation with the GSA, in which case the GSA must accommodate that request within 30 days. The GSA also must hold a public hearing prior to adopting or amending a GSP. There must be at least 90 days between the notice issued to cities and counties and the public hearing. [CA Water Code Section 10728.4]
- 4. If a GSA intends to impose or increase a fee, it must first hold at least one public meeting, at which attendees may make oral or written comments. See below for requirements for public notice of the meeting:
	- a. Information about the time and place of the meeting and a general explanation of the topic to be discussed.
	- b. Public notice must be posted on the GSA's website and mailed to any interested party who submits a written request for mailed notice of meetings on new or increased fees. (The GSA must establish and maintain a list of interested parties, and the list is subject to renewal by April 1 of each year.)
	- c. The public notice must also be consistent with Section 6066 of the Government Code.
	- d. In addition, the GSA must share with the public the data upon which the proposed fee is based, and this must be done at least ten days before the public meeting takes place. [CA Water Code Section 10730.(b)(1),(2), and (3). (Note: Additional processes are required under Proposition 218 and 26

related to taxes; these processes are not currently referenced in this communication plan but shall be incorporated as relevant.)



**Phase 3 Engagement Requirements** 

#### + 60 Day Comment Period \$353.8\*

- $\rightarrow$  Any person may provide comments to DWR regarding a proposed or adopted GSP via the SGMA Portal at http://sqma.water.ca.gov/portal/
- > Comments will be posted to DWR's website

Phase 4: 2022+

#### **Phase 4 Engagement Requirements**

- Public Notices and Meetings  $$10730$ 
	- $\rightarrow$  Before amending a GSP
	- $\rightarrow$  Prior to imposing or increasing a fee
- Encourage Active Involvement \$10727.8

#### **Engagement Requirements Applicable to ALL PHASES**

- Beneficial Uses and Users \$10723.2 Consider interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater
- Advisory Committee \$10727.8 GSA may appoint and consult with an advisory committee
- Public Notices and Meetings  $$10730$ 
	- $\rightarrow$  Before electing to be a GSA
	- $\rightarrow$  Before adopting or amending a GSP
	- $\rightarrow$  Prior to imposing or increasing a fee
- $\cdot$  Encourage Active Involvement  $\S 10727.8$ Encourage the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the groundwater basin
- Native American Tribes  $$10720.3$ 
	- $\rightarrow$  May voluntarily agree to participate
	- $\rightarrow$  See Engagement with Tribal Government Guidance Document
- $\cdot$  Federal Government  $$10720.3$
- $\rightarrow$  May voluntarily agree to participate

# <span id="page-88-0"></span>Centralized Outreach and Engagement Strategies

The following strategies are meant to ensure successful engagement of Madera Subbasin stakeholders during the GSP development and implementation process. These centralized activities should be conducted by all Madera Subbasin GSAs for purposes of efficiency and clear messaging. Individual Madera Subbasin GSAs are responsible for identifying and contributing appropriate staff and resources for outreach and engagement activities.

#### <span id="page-88-1"></span>1. Develop and Maintain a List of Interested Parties

A list of stakeholders and beneficial users is to be developed and updated throughout the GSP planning, implementation and enforcement processes. Each GSA is required to maintain its own list, however coordinating these lists into a single Subbasin list will improve stakeholder engagement.

Timely notification of opportunities for interested parties to participate in the development and implementation of the GSP should be given via the channels and strategies described in detail throughout this document. Primary channels are summarized as follows:

- Madera Subbasin Website: [http://www.maderacountywater.com](http://www.maderacountywater.com/)
- Madera Subbasin Listserv
- Madera Subbasin Social Media: https://www.facebook.com/MaderaCounty/
- Madera Subbasin Coordination Committee meetings and Roundtable sessions
- Madera Subbasin Technical Workshops
- Madera Subbasin Public Workshops
- Individual Madera GSA Board meetings and GSA Technical Advisory Committee meetings

Additional options for engagement include:

- County flyers
- Press (Newspaper notifications and SGMA articles)
- Engagement Partner events (community workshops, community meetings, etc.)
- Educational tours/field trips

The primary format for engagement in GSP development will involve the Technical Workshops and Coordination Committee Roundtables. This process is outlined in Figures A2.C.a-2 and A2.C.a-3, *Technical Workshop and Roundtable Sequence* and *Workshop Planning Schedule*, and the Opportunities for Engagement table in Appendix 1 provides the dates, topics, and locations for Technical Workshops and Roundtables (as well as other engagement opportunities and relevant meetings).

#### Figure A2.C.a-2. Technical Workshop and Roundtable Sequence

<span id="page-90-0"></span>

#### Figure A2.C.a-3. Workshop Planning Schedule

# **Workshop Planning Schedule**

<span id="page-91-0"></span>

To assist in determining the topics, types, and sequencing of outreach vis-à-vis specific stakeholder interests, DWR has recommended conducting a "Lay of the Land" exercise. Table A2.C.a-2, below, was developed based on stakeholder assessment conversations conducted in the Madera Subbasin.

# <span id="page-92-0"></span>Table A2.C.a-2. SGMA GSA/GSP Stakeholder Constituency "Lay of the Land" **Exercise**







It is important to note that during the Madera Subbasin stakeholder interests and concerns assessment phase, conducted during Fall 2017, most beneficial users expressed concern regarding their role in GSA decision-making, requesting clear pathways and opportunities for their voices and interests to be meaningfully included in the GSP planning and implementation process. Mutual water companies, farmers, disadvantaged communities, schools, hospitals, and others want to ensure they are able to weigh in on decisions and plans that impact their interests and needs in sustainable groundwater use. As a way of balancing the needs for an inclusive process that considers the needs and perspectives of all beneficial users along with an efficient and effective GSP planning process, see the section on *Stakeholder Roundtables*.

#### <span id="page-94-0"></span>2. Maintain a Centralized Madera Subbasin Website

#### http://www.maderacountywater.com

The County has allocated staff and resources to maintain a Subbasin website with information about Madera Subbasin-wide planning efforts related to SGMA, such as joint GSP planning activities and meetings and other relevant information. While individual GSAs may seek to maintain separate websites, a centralized location for activities that are subbasin-wide or related to the Coordinating GSAs GSP development will demonstrate coordination and provide consistency in messaging.

The following are recommendations for the Madera Subbasin website:

A. Resources and Materials:

- i. Links to external sites (Department of Water Resources and State Water Resources Control Board)
- ii. Links to individual GSA websites, relevant blogs, etc.
- iii. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) and/or white papers
- iv. GSA documents (MOUs, by‐laws, etc.)
- v. GSP documents (draft GSP documents, notices and meeting calendars for GSP workshops)
- B. Recommended Structure:
	- i. Provide a one-stop location for Coordinating GSAs
	- ii. Include tabs for information specific to each GSA, including service areas (if applicable), maps, GSA Board meetings, updates, and opportunities for stakeholder input

#### <span id="page-95-0"></span>3. Provide Regular Public Notices and Updates; Ensure Brown Act **Compliance**

Coordinate consistent messaging and outreach regarding SGMA information and updates as they relate to Madera Subbasin.

- A. Topics to be noticed include and are not limited to:
	- i. GSP development and planning updates
	- ii. GSP implementation and enforcement updates
		- o GSP workshops
		- o GSP work plan and timeline
	- iii. General GSA updates, including without limitation:
		- o GSA Board meetings
		- o Coordination Committee meetings
		- o Public workshops and/or stakeholder roundtables
		- o GSA annual reports
		- o Other SGMA related updates
- B. Schedule notices to be sent on a regular schedule, for example bi-monthly, monthly, or as needed
	- i. Meetings subject to the Brown Act, such as GSA Board meetings, Coordination Committee Meetings, and others, must provide public notice and post an agenda 72 hours in advance of each regularly scheduled meeting (emergency meetings require 24-hour advance notice)
- C. Develop content appropriate to the audience and their interests, ensuring information is articulated in a way that is easily understood
	- i. Notices to community members with less SGMA or technical experience should be easily understood, with streamlined, relatable, and repetitive information
	- ii. Updates and messages should be condensed to one page when possible, providing a succinct summary of the issues discussed, and including links for

further or additional information

- iii. As applicable, specific items should have an estimated timeline and a designated point of contact, including the person's position, email and telephone number
- iv. Updates and information are needed in both English and Spanish
- D. Designate responsible staff and appropriate resources for ongoing inter-agency coordination regarding joint messaging, consistent outreach, and communication with stakeholders
- E. Determine appropriate dissemination channels
	- i. Utilize Constant Contact or a similar email marketing platform for management of interested party stakeholder lists
	- ii. Utilize member agency listservs delivered via standard email and/or U.S. Mail, e.g., inclusion in water bills, tax assessor documents, etc.
	- iii. Utilize updated interested party stakeholder list for Madera Subbasin, including organizations and agencies such as the Farm Bureau, DAC groups, schools, hospitals, utilities, mutual water companies, neighborhood groups, and local non-profits such as Self-Help Enterprises and Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

#### <span id="page-96-0"></span>4. Provide Notices and Updates in Local Newspaper Periodicals

Notices can take the form of Public Notices, Op-Ed articles, Letters to the Editor, Advertisements or Earned Media.

- A. Send information and/or media releases to regional and local media outlets and contacts
	- i. KMJ radio is considered a trusted media source in the region
	- ii. Organization and community newsletters and periodicals
	- iii. Identify trusted bi-lingual and/or Spanish speaking media outlets
- B. Provide follow-up or wrap-up articles written by staff when appropriate
- C. Include notices for:
	- i. Public workshops
	- ii. Specific stakeholder meetings (targeted or special topic meetings)
	- iii. GSA Board meetings
	- iv. Coordination Committee meetings
	- v. Other standing meetings of particular interest related to SGMA
	- vi. GSP development and planning updates
	- vii. GSP implementation and enforcement updates
	- viii. General GSA and SGMA related updates

#### <span id="page-97-0"></span>5. Institute Regular Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement Opportunities

It is critical that stakeholders and beneficial users are provided regular opportunities for their input to be incorporated into GSA governance and decision-making processes, and that they understand exactly how they are able to contribute to the GSP planning and implementation processes.

Stakeholder engagement opportunities include but are not limited to:

- A. Standing Operations Meetings
	- i. GSA Board meetings
	- ii. Coordination Committee meetings
	- iii. GSP Technical Workshops
- B. Public Workshops and Roundtables (see section on *Stakeholder Roundtables*)
	- i. Schedule workshops and roundtables bi-monthly or as needed
		- a. Schedule in evenings and/or near community areas as feasible
	- ii. Provide translation and facilitation services in English and Spanish
	- iii. Public workshop or roundtable content includes but is not limited to:
		- a) Updates on GSA coordination activities
		- b) SGMA 101 workshops
		- c) Updates on GSP development and planning activities
		- d) Opportunities for interested parties to participate in the development and implementation of the GSP (i.e., technical workshops on specific GSP components)
		- e) Notice of GSA intent to adopt or amend a GSP
		- f) Updates on groundwater management activities in the Subbasin
		- g) Notice to impose fees

#### <span id="page-97-1"></span>6. Strategically Engage Local, Special SGMA Identified Groups

Develop a targeted communication strategy to engage difficult-to-reach communities and community members that will be impacted by SGMA. This may include additional activities for specific beneficial users (e.g., posting notices or door-to-door engagement, speaking at pre-existing community meetings) and/or coordination with existing advisory groups or non-profit organizations as part of roundtable discussions.

#### <span id="page-97-2"></span>7. Develop and Update Subbasin Outreach and Engagement Resources Table

Assess and define Coordinating GSAs' outreach tools and resources available for Subbasin-wide outreach and engagement activities.

#### <span id="page-98-0"></span>8. Develop Consistent, Coordinated Messages and Talking Points

Define the key messages needed to effectively convey SGMA-related information to various audiences, and ensure consistency in a coordinated outreach effort to all stakeholders.

- A. For each topic being discussed (see work plan), develop a set of talking points that can be used by GSA members when speaking to specific stakeholder groups or audiences. Talking points and messaging may be customized to specific stakeholder groups as appropriate.
- B. Develop tools, such as a glossary and a SGMA 101 information piece, that contain easy-to-understand information as well as responses to anticipated questions from stakeholder groups. Consider developing simple brochures and short videos.
- C. Identify and communicate opportunities for public engagement and/or public comment during meetings on GSP development.
- D. Provide clear messaging that GSAs retain legal responsibility for final GSA- and GSP-related decisions.

#### <span id="page-98-1"></span>Localized Outreach and Engagement Strategies

While consistent messaging is to be coherently coordinated at the Subbasin level, specifically among the Coordinating GSAs, localized outreach is to be coordinated at the GSA level through existing, trusted channels.

#### <span id="page-98-2"></span>1. Utilize Local Agencies with Standing Meetings

The most effective way to inform and engage many stakeholders and beneficial users regarding SGMA requirements and soliciting feedback is through trusted local agencies and community organizations with standing meetings and established communication channels.

- A. Support local agencies and community organizations in disseminating information and engaging stakeholders in the following ways:
	- i. During standing board and/or community meetings
	- ii. Through monthly information pieces in newsletters or included in bills
	- iii. By disseminating information in both English and Spanish
- B. Local trusted agencies and community organizations include but are not limited to:
	- i. Madera Farm Bureau
	- ii. Mutual water companies
	- iii. Leaders in DAC communities such as Fairmead
	- iv. Growers associations and industry organizations (such as wine and dairy)
- v. Resource conservation groups
- vi. Local non-profits (such as Self-Help Enterprises, Community Water Center, and Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability)
- vii. Local hospitals and schools
- C. Leverage local, trusted resources for community meetings, such as schools, churches, and community centers
- D. Organize public meetings around concrete impacts to specific stakeholders, including:
	- i. SGMA 101 workshop(s) to inform stakeholders of important changes in groundwater management and how it will impact them
	- ii. Meetings that detail when and how opportunities to provide input to the GSA decision-making and GSP development processes will occur
	- iii. Public meetings regarding fee structures to help people understand how to interpret the impacts on them
- E. Make information and meetings accessible to various stakeholder groups
	- i. Provide information in easy-to-understand and streamlined terms
	- ii. Provide information and facilitation in both English and Spanish
	- iii. Hold meetings during hours that do not conflict with regular work schedules (i.e., nights and weekends)

#### <span id="page-99-0"></span>2. Utilize Existing Local Agency Resources

Effectively inform and engage diverse beneficial users in SGMA through trusted local agencies and community organizations with existing communication channels such as newsletters, websites, and social media.

- A. Disseminate consistent, coordinated messages and talking points through existing local newsletters, websites, and social media
- B. Customize messages to audiences, providing easy-to-understand updates
- C. Provide information in both English and Spanish (most websites and social media allow users to set preferred translation)

#### <span id="page-99-1"></span>3. Build on Strategies to Engage Local, Special SGMA Identified Groups

To build on the Basin-wide outreach referenced above, each GSA will need to develop additional locally-targeted communication strategies to engage difficult-to-reach communities and community members that will be impacted by SGMA. Groups include Disadvantaged Communities (DACs), underrepresented communities, Latino communities, and remote private pumpers.

As mentioned above, some groups may need to be engaged through channels that do not require internet access, via door-to-door outreach and other opportunities for face-to face engagement.

# <span id="page-100-0"></span>Stakeholder Roundtables: Process for Reporting Stakeholder Input to GSA Coordination Committee and Workgroups

Madera Subbasin GSAs recognize that stakeholder input into the development and implementation of a GSP is critical for GSP acceptance and successful implementation, as well as a SGMA requirement. As such, Stakeholder Roundtables have been identified as the best method to incorporate Madera Subbasin stakeholder/beneficial user input into the GSP development and implementation process.

The circumstances of the Madera Subbasin are such that each of the seven (7) GSAs has vastly different resources, responsibilities, capacities, and stakeholder representation to consider as they form Subbasin committees and workgroups, and coordinate among themselves for the GSP. There is a need to identify tools and processes whereby GSAs and their beneficial users are given fair representation while the resources and capacities of each GSA, as well as beneficial users, are taken into account.

To this end, voluntary participation in Stakeholder Roundtables held in conjunction with Coordination Committee meetings (who will then make recommendations to GSA Boards) is a fair process that provides stakeholders the ability to gather information, share perspectives, and deliberate about options that would best serve the needs of the community at large as the GSP is developed and implemented.

#### <span id="page-100-1"></span>Stakeholder Roundtable Structure

- 1. Timing: As feasible, Roundtables will be held immediately prior to and in the same venue as Coordination Committee meetings where recommendations are made to GSAs. (Coordination Committee meetings will be open to the public and subject to the Brown Act, as will GSA Board meetings.)
- 2. Notice: Roundtables will be noticed concurrently with regularly scheduled Coordination Committee meetings, ideally 2-3 weeks in advance.
- 3. Participation: All interested Madera Subbasin stakeholders/beneficial users are invited to participate. At least one Coordination Committee member will attend all Roundtable meetings.
- 4. Process: Roundtables will be facilitated, participatory workshops allowing for stakeholder input to be heard and recorded.
- 5. Financing: Roundtables will be dependent upon identification of resources to support them, determined by GSAs.

See Figure A2.C.a-2 above for details on process.

# <span id="page-101-0"></span>Recommended Milestones for Engaging Stakeholders

To employ the Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan effectively, Madera Subbasin GSAs will need to develop a schedule for outreach and engagement activities. The below table (Table A2.C.a-3) identifies milestones required by SGMA, as well as centralized and localized engagement strategies. This schedule shall be updated into a task-oriented work plan and timeline as communication and engagement tasks are allocated.



#### <span id="page-101-1"></span>Table A2.C.a-3. Summary of Engagement Opportunities and Milestones













# <span id="page-107-0"></span>Evaluation and Assessment

Any communication strategy should include opportunities to check in at various points during implementation to ensure that it is meeting the communication and engagement goals and complying with SGMA law. These check-ins can include:

- $\checkmark$  What worked well
- $\checkmark$  What didn't work as planned
- $\checkmark$  Meeting recaps with next steps
- $\checkmark$  Listing lessons learned ... and developing mid-course corrections
- $\checkmark$  (As relevant) Communications budget analysis
## Educational Materials

DWR has developed various educational materials about SGMA and GSA/GSP development. In addition to DWR materials, academic institutions and foundations have published useful reports about SGMA implementation. While not comprehensive, Table A2.C.a-4 lists some essential SGMA educational and reference materials.

### Table A2.C.a-4. Educational and Reference Documents for SGMA Implementation





## Appendix A2.C.a-1: Opportunities for Engagement

The following tables present a schedule of meetings that provide opportunities for engagement, including:

- **Madera Subbasin Public/Technical Workshops:** Technical presentations made by GSP preparation consultants
- **Madera Subbasin Public Roundtable/Coordination Committee Meetings:**  Opportunities for local stakeholders to discuss the technical aspects of development and make the required decisions to move the technical process forward. Generally, the GSP Preparation Consultants will not attend the Public Round Table/Coordination Committee meetings, though for certain topics if deemed useful by the Plan Manager, the GSP Preparation Consultants may attend a few of these meetings.
- **Community Meetings:** Meetings that are not SGMA/GSP-specific, but at which information about the GSP will be presented (e.g., standing board meetings)
- **Individual GSA Meetings:** Meetings of the individual GSAs within the subbasin. [2](#page-110-0) Madera County GSA meets on an as-needed basis, and does not have a standing meeting scheduled. All other participating GSAs have standing meetings, included in Table A2.C.a-1. See Table A2.C.a-2 for the recurring schedules. The Madera Subbasin GSAs that are participating in developing this GSP include:
	- o Madera County GSA
	- o City of Madera GSA
	- o Madera Irrigation District GSA
	- o Root Creek Water District GSA
	- o Madera Water District GSA
	- o Gravelly Ford Water District GSA
	- o New Stone Water District GSA

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<span id="page-110-0"></span><sup>2</sup> See Appendix 2 for more information about each GSA.























## Table A2.C.a-B. Recurring meetings of individual GSAs within the subbasin.

## Appendix A2.C.a-2: GSAs within the Madera Subbasin

The Madera Subbasin consists of 7 Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs), depicted in the following map (source: Madera County Water and Natural Resources Department. [http://www.maderacountywater.com/wp](http://www.maderacountywater.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/GSA_417_MaderaMap.pdf)[content/uploads/2016/10/GSA\\_417\\_MaderaMap.pdf\)](http://www.maderacountywater.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/GSA_417_MaderaMap.pdf).



Figure A2.C.a-C. Map of Madera Subbasin GSAs

See Table A2.C.a-D, below, for information regarding the formation, agency type, contact information, and committees of each  $GSA<sup>3</sup>$  $GSA<sup>3</sup>$  $GSA<sup>3</sup>$ . See Table A2.C.a-2 of Appendix A2.C.a-1 for information regarding the standing meetings of the GSAs.

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<span id="page-121-0"></span><sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Note: The table below is in the process of being updated to fill in the gaps.

### Table A2.C.a-D. Overview of the GSAs of the Madera Subbasin







## Appendix A2.C.a-3: Tribal Engagement

#### Relevant DWR Information

**SGMA Section 10720.3.** …any federally recognized Indian Tribe, appreciating the shared interest in assuring the sustainability of groundwater resources, may voluntarily agree to participate in the preparation or administration of a groundwater sustainability plan or groundwater management plan under this part through a joint powers authority or other agreement with local agencies in the basin. A participating Tribe shall be eligible to participate fully in planning, financing, and management under this part, including eligibility for grants and technical assistance, if any exercise of regulatory authority, enforcement, or imposition and collection of fees is pursuant to the Tribe's independent authority and not pursuant to authority granted to a groundwater sustainability agency under this part.

**Draft Discussion Paper Tribal Participation with Groundwater Sustainability** 

**Agencies** [http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/pdfs/SGMA\\_Tribal\\_GSAs.pdf](http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/pdfs/SGMA_Tribal_GSAs.pdf)

**Must a local agency exclude federal and tribal lands from its service area when** 

#### **forming a GSA?**

No, federal lands and tribal lands need not be excluded from a local agency's GSA area if a local agency has jurisdiction in those areas; however, those areas are not subject to SGMA. But, a local agency in its GSA formation notice shall explain how it will consider the interests of the federal government and California Native American tribes when forming a GSA and developing a GSP. DWR strongly recommends that local agencies communicate with federal and tribal representatives prior to deciding to become a GSA. As stated in Water Code §10720.3, the federal government or any federally recognized Indian tribe, appreciating the shared interest in assuring the sustainability of groundwater resources, may voluntarily agree to participate in the preparation or administration of a GSP or groundwater management plan through a JPA or other agreement with local agencies in the basin. Water Code References: §10720.3, §10723.2, §10723.8

#### Tribal Outreach Resources

The follow are links to agency tribal outreach resources and considerations, each of which captures important principles and resources for tribal outreach. A short summary of key outreach principles can be found below.

- Draft Discussion Paper Tribal Participation with Groundwater Sustainability [Agencies](http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/pdfs/SGMA_Tribal_GSAs.pdf)
- [CalEPA Tribal Consultation Policy Memo \(August 2015\)](http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Tribal/Policy/2015Policy.pdf)
- [DWR Tribal Engagement Policy \(May 2016\)](http://www.water.ca.gov/tribal/docs/2016/policy.pdf)
- [CA Natural Resources Agency Tribal Consultation Policy \(November 2012\)](https://cwc.ca.gov/Documents/2015/01_January/January2015_Agenda_Item_9_Attach_K_CNRATribalConsultationPolicy.pdf)
- [SWRCB Proposed Tribal Beneficial Uses](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/about_us/public_participation/tribal_affairs/beneficial_uses.shtml)
- [Butte County Associate of Governments: Policy For Government-To-Government](http://www.bcag.org/documents/planning/PPP/2016%20PPP/PPP_Native_American_Tribal_Governments_June_2016.pdf)  [Consultation With Federally Recognized Native American Tribal Governments](http://www.bcag.org/documents/planning/PPP/2016%20PPP/PPP_Native_American_Tribal_Governments_June_2016.pdf) *(a model from the transportation sector)*
- [CA Court Tribal Outreach and Engagement Strategies](http://www.courts.ca.gov/partners/documents/2011SRL1cStrategies.pdf)
- [Traditional Ecological Knowledge resources](http://climate.calcommons.org/article/tek)
- [Water Education Foundation Tribal Water Issues](http://www.watereducation.org/topic-tribal-water-issues)

Key Outreach Principles

- Engage early and often
- Consider tribal beneficial uses in decision-making (identified by region [here\)](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/about_us/public_participation/tribal_affairs/docs/bu_regions.pdf); identify and seek to protect tribal cultural resources
- Share relevant documentation with tribal officials
- Conduct meetings at times convenient for tribal participation with ample notifications
- Request relevant process input/data/information from tribes
- Empower tribes to act as tribal cultural resources caretakers
- Designate a tribal liaison(s) where appropriate
- Share resources for tribal involvement as is feasible
- Develop MOUs where relevant
- Be mindful of the traditions and cultural norms of tribes in your area

## Appendix A2.C.a-4: Meeting Locations

The following table presents some options for meeting locations.

### Table A2.C.a-E. Meeting locations





### **APPENDIX 2.C. NOTICE AND COMMUNICATION**

**2.C.b. Madera Subbasin Interested Parties List**

Prepared as part of the **Joint Groundwater Sustainability Plan Madera Subbasin** 

January 2020

**GSP Team:** 

Davids Engineering, Inc Luhdorff & Scalmanini ERA Economics Stillwater Sciences and California State University, Sacramento



#### JOINT GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN MADERA SUBBASIN



#### JOINT GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN MADERA SUBBASIN









City of Clovis dwightk@ci.clovis.ca.us City of Fresno internal inter-clark@fresno.gov City of Madera come change of Madera come change of Madera.com

### **APPENDIX 2.C. NOTICE AND COMMUNICATION**

**2.C.c. Madera Subbasin Engagement Matrix**

Prepared as part of the **Joint Groundwater Sustainability Plan Madera Subbasin**

January 2020

**GSP Team:**

Davids Engineering, Inc Luhdorff & Scalmanini ERA Economics Stillwater Sciences and California State University, Sacramento



#### **Madera Subbasin Outreach Check List Subbasin‐Wide Centralized Engagement Informing the Public about GSP Development Progress**









### **APPENDIX 2.C. NOTICE AND COMMUNICATION**

**2.C.d. Madera Subbasin Stakeholder Input Matrix** 

Prepared as part of the **Joint Groundwater Sustainability Plan Madera Subbasin** 

January 2020

**GSP Team:** 

Davids Engineering, Inc Luhdorff & Scalmanini ERA Economics Stillwater Sciences and California State University, Sacramento

# **Madera Subbasin Stakeholder Input**


# **APPENDIX 2.C. NOTICE AND COMMUNICATION 2.C.e. Madera Subbasin Comments and Responses**

**(Joint GSP 2025 Plan Amendment Public Review Draft)**

Prepared as part of the **Joint Groundwater Sustainability Plan Madera Subbasin**

> January 2020 Amended January 2025

#### **GSP Team:**

Davids Engineering, Inc. (Amended GSP Team) Luhdorff & Scalmanini (Amended GSP Team) ERA Economics Stillwater Sciences and California State University, Sacramento

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# <span id="page-145-0"></span>**1 COMMENTS RECEIVED**

Under SGMA, the four Joint GSP GSAs have solicited and responded to comments from the public and from other agencies concerned with the public review draft Joint GSP 2025 Plan Amendment. The public review draft Joint GSP 2025 Plan Amendment was made available during a public review period beginning on November 6, 2024 and ending on December 20, 2024. Organizations or commenters who submitted comments on the Joint GSP 2025 Plan Amendment are listed below.

- Self-Help Enterprises (SHE)
- Madera Ag Water Association, Inc. (MAWA)
- Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability (Leadership Counsel)
- Valley Children's Hospital (Valley Children's)

The Joint GSP GSAs have reviewed and responded to all comments received regarding the public review draft Joint GSP 2025 Plan Amendment as of December 20, 2024. The Joint GSP GSAs have also clarified certain text in the Joint GSP 2025 Plan Amendment in response to comments, as applicable. Section 2 provides a table of all the comments and responses. Section 3 provides every comment received during the public review period for reference.

## *This appendix contains only those comments and responses applicable to the public review draft Joint GSP 2025 Plan Amendment.*

*All comments and responses applicable to the public review draft initial Joint GSP (submitted to DWR in January 2020) are included in Appendix 2.C.e of the initial Joint GSP.*

# <span id="page-146-0"></span>**2 ALL COMMENTS AND RESPONSES**





Amendment include extensive discussion of groundwater quality and itrate, and arsenic were selected as the constituents of concern. In red at five-year intervals. Furthermore, there will be periodic review (CB) data available on GeoTracker for other types of contaminants. Iking Water have many other programs that address groundwater

Domestic Well Mitigation Program (DWMP) such that ment is clearly expressed through the MOU (Appendix 3.E), and 2023 to continue coordinating, reach agreement, and continue has been awarded a \$125,000 grant from DWR that is supporting, ices to support further development and refinement of the DWMP. develop and begin implementation of the DWMP according to the ng in 2025).

vised language in Section 3.3.1.1 of the Joint GSP 2025 Plan uage, as noted by SHE, were made to provide updates through text added in the same section describing these updates through

mment, the GSAs have not rolled back their commitment – rather, DWMP such that implementation can begin in 2025, as expressed in of the Joint GSP 2025 Plan Amendment.

ment are older analyses from the 2020 Initial Joint GSP (now in the GSAs' recognition that a DWMP is needed in the Subbasin to SMC. Appendix  $3.$ D has not been updated as part of the 2025 Plan DWMP development efforts. This is now clarified in the Joint GSP

SAs' response to the previous comments from SHE.



ue to consider the initial mitigation program recommendations continues.

holder engagement during development of the initial Joint GSP and come local collaboration and assistance with project and ntation.

dwater levels since 2020 is related to drought and overdraft since groundwater levels in the future as overdraft is reduced and

ter model for the Subbasin as part of the 2025 Periodic Evaluation plogy (through 2023) and updates to PMAs (through 2040). Model f groundwater levels will occur in response to reduction and .D of the Joint GSP 2025 Plan Amendment).

f the Joint GSP 2025 Plan Amendment, the MC GSA's demand he initial Joint GSP to cover all of the estimated 111,000 AFY of 00 AFY as originally intended). In this way, the MC GSA is prepared other projects. The Joint GSP 2025 Plan Amendment also includes egies, particularly as related to meeting subsidence interim mary and Chapter 4 of the Joint GSP 2025 Plan Amendment – as basin GSAs remain committed to adaptive management of entified PMAs.

period, there was only one historic wet year (2023), which followed VY 2024 was close to average. Thus, this was a dry overall time ring the 2020 to 2022 drought, groundwater levels stabilized or



based on many assumptions about PMAs and the assumed modeled groundwater elevations, will continue to be updated and o improve model calibration. The assumed hydrology for the GSP ewhat conservative in backloading the wetter years to between 2035 ines during the GSP implementation period than may occur in groundwater elevations going into 2040.

input uncertainties – the Joint GSP GSAs will proceed with GSP ent approach to achieve sustainable groundwater levels by 2040. d to developing a DWMP such that implementation can begin in and in Section 3.3.1.1 of the Joint GSP 2025 Plan Amendment.

n earlier versions of the Joint GSP that served as an initial basis for in the Subbasin to mitigate potential impacts from setting stricter art of the 2025 Plan Amendment process, and neither appendix is is is now clarified in the Joint GSP 2025 Plan Amendment.

DWMP such that implementation can begin in 2025. The MC GSA that is supporting, among other activities, ongoing facilitation finement of the DWMP (as described in Section 3.3.1.1 of the Joint not being used for mitigation or related implementation of the

SAs have continued coordination to advance DWMP development nder the MOU, the GSAs are agreeing to work cooperatively to fund each GSA's proportionate responsibility (see Sections 2 and 3 of the ng efforts for GSP implementation are described in the 2025 Periodic iments, charges, and/or other funding mechanisms related to district alties related to the MC GSA allocation.

ed to GSP implementation are further described in the 2025 Periodic efforts. The MC GSA has approved and begun enforcing a penalty (also described in Section 4.9.4 of the Joint GSP 2025 Plan alties are available to support GSP implementation moving forward, ated an inclination to fund domestic well mitigation first as a top

cifically reviewed the recommended guidance found in the litigation Program," as referenced in the MOU (Appendix 3.E). The ocuments shared by Leadership Counsel during DWMP refinement

int GSP 2025 Plan Amendment in Section 3.2.1.3.1 on this topic n water quality. The anticipated magnitude of additional GWL is not expected to result in groundwater quality impacts; however, senic and nitrate, will provide protection to beneficial users.



# **JOINT GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN**<br>MADERA SUBBASIN

# **JANUARY 2020, AMENDED JANUARY 2025**<br>APPENDIX 2.C.e Responses to Comments





Executive Summary and Chapter 4 of the Joint GSP 2025 Plan Amendment, as well as the 2025 Periodic Evaluation, the Subbasin GSAs are committed to an adaptive that is informed by continued monitoring of groundwater conditions. As PMAs are implemented and Subbasin conditions are monitored, the GSAs will review PMA timelines, benefits, estimated costs, available funding opportunities, and the volume of demand management that may be necessary to achieve sustainability. If the GSAs find that adjustments are needed to meet the sustainability goal, the GSAs will evaluate and adjust plans for project implementation and, to the extent necessary, demand management. Any



# <span id="page-152-0"></span>**3 DOCUMENTATION OF COMMENTS RECEIVED**

All comments received during the public review period for the Joint GSP 2025 Plan Amendment are included in this section exactly as they were received.

All comments received during the public review period for the initial Joint GSP (submitted to DWR in January 2020) are included in Appendix 2.C.e of the initial Joint GSP.



*A Nonprofit Housing and Community Development Organization*

December 20, 2024

## **Re: Comments and Recommendations on the Madera Groundwater Sustainability Agency's 2025 Updated Groundwater Sustainability Plan**

Dear Plan Manager Stephanie Anagnoson, Madera Subbasin,

Self-Help Enterprises (SHE) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the 2025 Madera Subbasin Joint GSP Amendment which offers updates for corrective actions. SHE is engaged in and committed to the successful implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) because we understand that groundwater is critical for the resilience of communities, particularly in light of ongoing climate change. We respectfully offer comments and recommendations for your consideration in response to the amended Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP/Plan) that was released for a 35-day public comment period on November 15, 2024.

Commitment to the State of California's Human Right to Water for all is integral to SHE's mission to provide safe and secure homes to all rural residents. We appreciate the opportunity to support the Madera Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) toward this effort.

The Plan notes that each of the six corrective actions as identified by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) in December 2023 have been addressed and that they can be summarized as three major priorities: Coordination, Land Subsidence, and ground water levels and water quality sustainable management criteria (SMCs). Our comments will be limited to areas within our expertise and the areas for which we raise potential areas of concern and recommendations for improvement. This is not to say that there were not areas of the Plan which are valued as positive improvements.

The focus of our comments will be for the following recommended corrective actions that the Plan aims to address, as well as comments on the Domestic Well Mitigation Program (Program):

Recommended Corrective Action 3: Clarify the relationship between groundwater level (GWL) SMCs and other SMCs.

Recommended Corrective Action 6: SMC for water quality [6a, 6b, 6c]

#### **Recommended Corrective Action 3:**

Department staff recommended that the GSAs address the following items:

"The GSAs should revise the GSPs to include a discussion of the relationship between the management criteria for chronic lowering of groundwater levels and the other sustainability indicators, including an explanation of how the criteria, including interim milestones, were established to avoid undesirable results for each of the other sustainability indicators."

The amended Plan successfully addresses this recommended corrective action by incorporating and enhancing several enhancements into the Plan. The amended Plan includes a detailed discussion on the connection between GWL and subsidence, along with an evaluation of this relationship through modeling. The plan additionally clearly defines the nexus between GWLs and subsidence, ensuring a more robust understanding of their interrelation. The update clarifies that GWL and subsidence are distinct sustainability indicators with separate metrics, and emphasizes that the most restrictive SMC will govern in cases of overlap. The explanation of how the SMCs were established to avoid undesirable results for each of the other sustainability indicators and the clarification that the most restrictive SMC is the SMC that governs is appreciated.

#### **Recommended Corrective Action 6:**

Department staff recommended that the GSAs address the following degraded water quality related items:

6a] The GSAs should revise the definition of undesirable results so that exceedances of minimum thresholds caused by groundwater extraction are considered in the assessment of undesirable results in the Subbasin.

SHE contends that the revision of the definition of undesirable results has been appropriately addressed with the Plan's improved description of the specifics of how water quality degradation has been defined. The amended Plan addresses that undesirable results of water quality degradation occur when domestic and small water systems wells are exceeding maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) (p. 43). Additionally, the amended Plan includes descriptive language around the GSAs potential responsibility for certain causes of groundwater quality degradation (i.e., overall groundwater extractions, project management actions). By mentioning "overall groundwater extractions" and "project management actions," the revision clarifies what types of activities or factors the GSAs might be held accountable for, which helps to understand the scope of their potential responsibility. While these changes have successfully been incorporated into the amended Plan, **SHE recommends the implementation of a more stringent standard for what will trigger an Undesirable Result for the chronic lowering of groundwater levels.** Allowing up to 30% of wells to reach the minimum threshold before an undesirable result is triggered is not in alignment with California's Human Right to Drinking Water (AB 685) and has the potential for extreme harm to residents and families.

6b] The GSAs should provide a clear definition of what the Plan considers an undesirable result for degraded water quality by describing conditions that it would consider to be significant or unreasonable. For example, the Plan should—in addition to qualitative descriptions—quantify the specific potential effects to beneficial users and uses from undesirable results using best available data and science. This definition should be supported by information described in the basin setting, and other data or models as appropriate, as required by the GSP Regulations.

The amended Plan was intended to clearly define what the GSAs consider an "undesirable result" for degraded water quality, specifically by describing conditions that would be deemed significant or unreasonable. The Plan does not appear to have gone beyond qualitative descriptions to include a quantitative description of the potential effects on beneficial users and uses from undesirable results. Unfortunately, the amended Plan primarily offers the same qualitative explanations as proposed in the original Plan without providing the necessary quantitative data, or at least offering quantitative support for these claims in an upfront way, to better understand and measure the potential impacts on water quality. This critical omission limits the plan's ability to effectively assess, address, and communicate the full scope of potential consequences, and may hinder the implementation of targeted, science-based management strategies. **SHE recommends that the amended Plan include quantitative descriptions of the potential effects on beneficial users and uses from undesirable results.**

6c] The GSAs should identify which minimum threshold values—either the MCL or existing concentration plus 20 percent—will be used at which representative monitoring sites (RMS). Also, the GSAs should justify how establishing minimum thresholds at the higher of either MCLs or existing concentrations plus 20 percent does not constitute significant and unreasonable effects as defined by the GSP (i.e., "when beneficial uses for groundwater are adversely impacted by constituent concentrations).

The Plan reiterates that the State of California drinking water MCLs for arsenic (10  $\mu$ g/L), nitrate (10 mg/L), and TDS (500 mg/L) are being used to define minimum thresholds (MTs) for groundwater quality degradation caused by GSP project management actions undertaken as part of the GSP implementation *or* if existing levels or historical concentrations already exceed the MCL, then the MT is set at the existing concentration plus 20 percent. **Yet more clarity on which RMS will use the California drinking water MCL or the existing concentration plus 20% is still needed.** The release of all groundwater quality data collected for RMS to date would be helpful in bringing more clarity to the situation. The release of this information could be helpful for a comprehensive assessment of what the current concentration is at each site and to understand what the 20% levels would look like.

**We also recommend providing more clarity on how establishing minimum thresholds at the higher of either MCLs or existing concentrations plus 20 percent does not constitute significant and unreasonable effects as defined by the GSP**. While significant detail is provided for how the allowable "degradation of water quality to a level in excess of 20% greater than the recent historically high concentration of the Chemical of Concern in the well" was selected, there is insufficient support for how this will be an *appropriate* threshold.

Furthermore, the amended Plan provides maps of other groundwater quality constituents that "highlight distinct areas of local groundwater contamination or groundwater constituents that should be considered when evaluating potential groundwater quality impacts from implementation of project management actions to achieve sustainability" (pg. 123). The Plan should consider those "other groundwater quality constituents" when monitoring. **SHE recommends monitoring for other contaminants as well beyond arsenic, nitrate and TDS to include, but is not limited to, uranium, hexavalent chromium, PFOs/PFOAs, and TCP-123, as there have been instances of concentrations exceeding the MCL.**

#### **Domestic Well Mitigation Program:**

It's imperative that GSAs develop a comprehensive, robust mitigation program since it's assumed groundwater levels will decline, and groundwater quality will possibly degrade. There are several concerns surrounding the current status of mitigation planning.

First, in their December 2023 approval letter, DWR noted that the previous plan, "describes details for a domestic well mitigation program (and that) Staff believe the details provided for this framework effectively describe the specific undesirable results the GSAs are trying to avoid" (Approved Determination of the Revised Groundwater Sustainability Plans Submitted for the San Joaquin Valley – Madera Subbasin, p. 11). The Madera GSP at that time, to which DWR's comments are referring to, noted that,

"As of March 2023, the GSAs are continuing to develop the Program eligibility criteria, terms, and conditions and are preparing to move forward with Program implementation, as needed. The GSAs will continue to coordinate on the basic roles and responsibilities of a Program within the first 5 years of GSP implementation (by 2025), although initiation of the Program will occur pending further analysis and identification of specific needs for Program implementation, but no later than 2025" (p. 230).

It is concerning to find that the amended Plan rolls back on its commitment to developing and implementing a well mitigation Program, particularly considering that Madera County was a hotspot for dry domestic wells during the most recent drought. The amended Plan removes the above language to simply state that, "Additional details about Program development and implementation will be reported in the future." The amended Plan goes on to state that this rollback on commitment to developing and implementing a Program is due to their financial analysis indicating that the,

"Economic analyses conducted to compare costs of implementing a Domestic Well Mitigation Program versus immediately requiring full implementation of demand reduction in 2020...found that immediate and substantial cutbacks in groundwater pumping would result in major impacts to the local economy and all Subbasin stakeholders, including domestic well owners, that would be more significant than the costs of implementing a Domestic Well Mitigation Program" (p. 230).

Their financial analysis additionally found "that the cost of implementing demand management on a faster trajectory (sooner in the implementation period) would not be cost effective from a subbasinwide perspective and that the "avoided costs (fewer domestic wells requiring replacement) would be small (\$0.77 million) relative to the lost agricultural net return \$996 million (0.08 percent) for the Madera subbasin)" (Appendix 3.E, p. 7).

This shift in approach is significantly concerning. *The primary purpose of the Domestic Well Mitigation Program is to proactively address and mitigate any negative impacts to domestic wells if they arise during the transition to sustainability.* Rolling back on this commitment undermines that purpose and risks leaving domestic well owners vulnerable to adverse effects without any mechanism for support. **The mitigation program is a critical safeguard to ensure that stakeholders are not disproportionately harmed while efforts are made to achieve groundwater sustainability and should continue to be developed** *alongside* **demand reduction efforts.**

Next, SHE is in support of all GSAs within the Subbasin in developing a Program, but as of the December 5th presentation of the Madera Subbasin's Public Webinar Workshop, only 5 of 7 GSAs had signed the memorandum of understanding (MOU). We are hopeful that all 7 GSAs will sign the MOU and work collaboratively in developing a Program. We are encouraged by the news that the Subbasin has received a \$125,000 grant to help coordinate a Domestic Well Mitigation Program and set up some monitoring wells and look forward to this project developing between March and December 2025 as proposed in the timeline. We recommend utilizing the [Framework for a Drinking Water Well Impact Mitigation](https://www.selfhelpenterprises.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Well-Mitigation-English.pdf)  [Program,](https://www.selfhelpenterprises.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Well-Mitigation-English.pdf) developed by SHE and partner organizations, to assist the Subbasin in developing the well mitigation framework.

SHE has been engaged in providing ongoing recommendations for mitigation programs as they are being developed across several subbasins. We offer the following initial mitigation program recommendations for your consideration:

#### **Eligibility for mitigation:**

**Well types:** SHE supports mitigation plans to be for domestic wells and small water systems. For mitigation education outreach efforts (see 'Educational component' section below), SHE recommends a more expansive approach in including rural schools, small businesses such as stores and services, churches, and other well users within the small rural communities.

**Cause of Well Failure:** SHE supports the notion of 10 feet of water remaining as being defined as a dry well that should be replaced as soon as possible. However, SHE recommends the GSA consider construction of a new well with less than 20 feet of water depending on climate conditions and consider placing wells with 20 feet of water on a "watch list." It is not unusual for groundwater levels to decline significantly in the Madera Subbasin in one single drought year. While future climate conditions cannot be absolutely predicted, depending on the region of the well it may behoove the GSA and the well owner to replace a domestic well with more than 10 feet of water at the time of the costly and timeconsuming assessment to prevent expensive interim water provisions being needed in the near future.

**Well Age:** SHE is strongly opposed to the age of the well being used as a factor for determining whether a well is eligible for mitigation and/or eligible for full mitigation funding. This recommendation is in line with [DWR's 2023 Mitigation Guidance Document](https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Files/Considerations-for-Identifying-and-Addressing-Drinking-Water-Well-Impacts_FINAL.pdf) in which DWR notes that, " a program should be reasonably structured so that it does not arbitrarily or inequitably exclude certain drinking water well users and GSAs should be cautious in program requirements that may exclude users based on age of well, location, socioeconomic status, demographics, and other relevant factors" (p. 11). Assuming a well is "too old" to continue functioning is just that, an assumption. If a previously functioning well stopped working because of groundwater decline, the well should be replaced regardless of age.

**Income Requirements:** SHE strongly opposes any type of income eligibility restrictions as to impose an income threshold that would disqualify residents from being eligible for mitigation is out of accordance with California's Human Right to Water (AB 685). All people in California have a human right to water, regardless of income.

**Land Ownership:** In accordance with California's Human Right to Water (AB 685), SHE supports ensuring that all people residing in California have access to drinking water, including those who rent homes serviced by a domestic well. SHE understands the need for the property owner to grant access to the property and permission to make changes to the property (long-term solutions). However, we want to ensure that tenant-occupied properties are considered eligible.

#### **Costs (Payment Options and Low Interest Loans):**

-SHE does not support a cost-sharing approach for well replacement.

-SHE does not support a reimbursement plan. The GSA should pay for mitigation upfront. -Mitigation due to groundwater decline should be funded by the GSAs, thus there should be no need for low-interest loans for wells determined to need mitigation due to groundwater decline.

#### **Education component:**

Well mitigation programs should include an education component for domestic well owners and small water systems on what to do if their well is dewatered, what information to gather, whom to contact, what to watch for to prevent being found without water, and to teach well owners how to gather information about their well, including but not limited to, well depth, age of well and pump, pump

setting, current groundwater level and pattern of predictable decline. This could reduce the potential for situations in which a well owner would be without well-water, and thus need an expensive and lengthy interim supply of water.

SHE suggests that multilingual English, Spanish, and Punjabi mailers/flyers (depending on communityspecific linguistic needs) be distributed at rural schools, churches, and community events, and that social media posts and other efforts be used to saturate the region with groundwater information on a regular basis. Conducting this outreach no less than quarterly during wet years and at least monthly during predrought and drought conditions is essential.

#### **Well Claims Process:**

**Claim application:** SHE recommends mitigation programs to outline the intended outreach efforts to publicize and support well claims. SHE strongly recommends each GSA establish and publicize support efforts for those unable to utilize online resources to prepare and submit a claim. SHE reminds the GSAs to provide interpretation services in multiple languages for both digital and paper applications. SHE invites the Subbasin to contact SHE staff for suggestions and recommendations.

#### **Evaluation and Appeals:**

-SHE supports a committee evaluation approach for mitigation claims, including the intent to expedite the evaluation process as quickly as possible.

-SHE recommends the availability of an appeals process.

#### **Mitigation Implementation:**

-Mitigation of groundwater quality must include water quality impacted by groundwater decline. SHE recommends the GSAs collaborate with Management Zones currently mitigating groundwater quality issues.

-SHE additionally suggests the Subbasin create and implement a trigger system, monitored at least quarterly, which warns and/or informs homeowners of impending groundwater decline especially during periods of drought when groundwater decline is more rapid.

#### **Interim Measures:**

-Mitigation programs should provide interim solution provisions, including a timeline for when bottled water will be provided. For example, the GSA should provide emergency bottled water to residents within 24 hours of a reported dry well. The Subbasin should also continue to provide interim measures until a long- term solution is in place.

In closing, safeguarding drinking water for communities stands as our organizational priority and lies at the core of the work that we do. We are confident that moving forward both the Madera Subbasin and the Department of Water Resources will both continue to work diligently to fulfill their responsibility to guarantee the proper protection of drinking water. We look forward to supporting these efforts.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Collishaw President/CEO



8445 W. Elowin Court • P.O. Box 6520 • Visalia, CA 93290

Phone (559) 651-1000 • Fax (559) 651-3634 • [info@selfhelpenterprises.org](mailto:info@selfhelpenterprises.org) • [www.selfhelpenterprises.org](http://www.selfhelpenterprises.org/)

# **Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Technical Assistance Well Mitigation Template 2024**

## **Introduction**

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to consider all beneficial uses and users of groundwater as they develop and implement Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs or Plans). At the same time, domestic water use is at the highest risk of contamination and loss of water supply. The future of families on shallow domestic and small community water system wells hangs in the balance as GSAs decide how to protect their wells. Many families who depend on shallow domestic wells or small water systems cannot afford to deepen wells or treat their water, because they lack the economies of scale that large public water systems have for addressing impacts to water supply and quality.

In March 2023, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) published a guidance document to assist GSAs in addressing potential impacts to drinking water users as they implement and update their GSPs under SGMA. DWR's guidance, titled *Considerations for Identifying and Addressing Drinking Water Well Impacts*, acknowledges that water use for domestic purposes is the highest use of water and that SGMA and other state laws "…require careful consideration and a well-supported management approach…" to address impacts to drinking water users.

## **Objective**

This template was developed by Community Water Center, Self-Help Enterprises, and Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability with the objective of the drinking water well protection template is to provide guidance and technical assistance for GSAs that are developing drinking water well impact mitigation programs (i.e. well-supported management approaches). While DWR's guidance provides a general framework for data gathering, public outreach, monitoring networks, and management actions to proactively monitor and protect drinking water wells and mitigate impacts should they occur, this template builds upon DWR's framework and provides specific, actionable items that GSAs can use to address potential and actual impacts to drinking water users.

# **Human Right to Water**

Text/ comment box: DWR Guidance: "Under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) must consider all beneficial uses and users in a groundwater basin when developing and implementing their locally developed groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs or Plans). Drinking water well users, which can include municipal entities, small communities, and individual domestic wells, have been identified and are considered beneficial users in all medium and high priority basins and can experience adverse effects such as dry wells, deteriorated water quality, and well damage from land subsidence when excessive groundwater extraction occurs."

In 2012, California recognized the Human Right to Water, codifying "the established policy of the state that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes."[1](#page-161-0) Under the Human Right to Water law, DWR and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) must consider how their actions will impact the Human Right to

<span id="page-161-0"></span> $1$  Cal. Water Code § 106.3(a).

Water when reviewing GSPs.<sup>[2](#page-162-0)</sup> In order to comply with these obligations, GSAs must consider how the mitigation program will impact communities' access to drinking water.

**GSAs developing mitigation programs are encouraged to focus mitigation programs on drinking water wells and small community water systems in disadvantaged communities, given the disproportionate impact on domestic wells and the responsibility of the GSAs to consider and avoid undesirable results that may include impacts to drinking water users.** 

#### Insert photo of community members

#### **Adaptive Management**



Groundwater planning and sustainable groundwater management are likely best achieved through an adaptive, iterative process. GSPs will need to be adjusted as conditions change, new data become available, and the efficacy of projects and management actions are better understood (also known as adaptive management). Through adaptive management, GSAs design and implement programs and management actions, such as mitigation programs, to address root problems: over-pumping of groundwater and water quality contamination. In order to uphold SGMA requirements, GSAs should set protective sustainable management criteria (SMCs) and implement actions to avoid undesirable results that may result in impacts to drinking water well users. This iterative process ensures that the GSA is factoring in the best available information, on a regular basis, and reporting these changes at public meetings and in the annual report.

State Water Resources Control Board. Resolution No. 2016-0010 Adopting the Human Right to Water as a Core Value and Directing Its Implementation in Water Board Programs and Activities (February 2016). Available at: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/resolutions/2016/rs2016\\_0010.pdf.](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/2016/rs2016_0010.pdf) Department of Water Resources. Human Right to Water Policy (April 2021). Available at: [https://water.ca.gov/-](https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/About/Files/California-Department-of-Water-Resources-Human-Right-to-Water-Policy__0421.pdf) [/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/About/Files/California-Department-of-Water-Resources-Human-Right-to-Water-](https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/About/Files/California-Department-of-Water-Resources-Human-Right-to-Water-Policy__0421.pdf)Policy 0421.pdf

<span id="page-162-0"></span><sup>2</sup> Cal. Water Code § 106.3(b); 23 CCR § 350.4 subd. (g); s*ee generally City of Burbank v. State Water Res. Control Bd.*, 35 Cal. 4th 613, 625 (2005) (explaining that taking into consideration means "to take into account various factors," including those specified in legislation).

Addressing impacts such as a dry well or contaminated well should be an emergency action for GSAs or, if GSA management did not cause the issue, the respective county charged with implementing their drought resilience plan under requirements of Senate Bill 552 (SB552). However, this should not take the place of adaptive management actions, such as setting SMCs protective of drinking water. For residents experiencing dry, contaminated wells, this is a worst-case scenario. A well-designed trigger system is one method that can be used to identify issues early on, as a problem is developing, and intervene. Early action avoids both monetary and human costs.

#### Insert photo of community members

#### **Resources**

Mitigation: [DWR Guidance,](https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Files/Considerations-for-Identifying-and-Addressing-Drinking-Water-Well-Impacts_FINAL.pdf) [Framework for a Drinking Water Well Impact Mitigation Program,](https://www.selfhelpenterprises.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Well-Mitigation-English.pdf) [Well](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vZqZuS6Bv-eMQXUtjcs9yUi_UoIjWqfVjpuf1dLYgUU/edit)  [mitigation case studies](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vZqZuS6Bv-eMQXUtjcs9yUi_UoIjWqfVjpuf1dLYgUU/edit)  Consolidation: [US Water Alliance resources](https://www.uswateralliance.org/initiatives/utility-consolidation) Outreach Materials: [SGMA Glossary \(English\),](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5e83c5f78f0db40cb837cfb5/t/640132cf82d57444918e52f1/1677800145168/SGMA_Glossary_08.19.22a+%281%29+%281%29.pdf) [SGMA Glossary \(Spanish\),](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5e83c5f78f0db40cb837cfb5/t/6401333583caf209fe16256a/1677800246990/SGMA_Glossary-Esp_08.25.22a+%281%29.pdf) [GSA Factsheets](https://www.selfhelpenterprises.org/programs/community-development/community-engagement-and-planning/sgma/)

## **1. Identify drinking water users**

Text/ comment box: DWR Guidance: "While SGMA does not require that all impacts to individual drinking water well users be avoided or mitigated, SGMA and other state laws and policies do require deliberate and careful consideration and a well-supported management approach regarding potential impacts to these users. Attempts to ignore or dismiss such impacts are inconsistent with the intent and requirements of SGMA and GSP Regulations." Pg. 10

In order to ensure all beneficial uses and users of groundwater are being taken into consideration when developing GSPs, projects, management actions, etc, it is important to account for all users in your basin. As part of this process, GSAs should identify all drinking water users in the basin, which includes de minimis users, domestic wells, state small water systems, small water systems, public and community water systems, and Tribes. Below are some tools to assist with this first step:

- [Disadvantaged Communities \(DAC\) Mapping Tool:](https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/) This tool is a web-based application to assist local agencies and other interested parties in evaluating disadvantaged community (DAC) status throughout the State, using the definition provided by Proposition 84 IRWM Guidelines (2015). The tool is an interactive map application that allows users to overlay three US Census geographies as separate data layers: 1) Census Place, 2) Census Tract, 3) Census Block Group.
- [CWC Drinking Water Tool:](https://drinkingwatertool.communitywatercenter.org/) The tool provides information about the ways that communities across the state might be vulnerable to groundwater challenges that could affect their access to long-term safe and affordable drinking water. The tool identifies domestic well communities and community water system communities.
- [Dry Well Reporting System:](https://mydrywell.water.ca.gov/report/) This site is for Californians to report voluntarily when their private well has gone dry. The site provides cumulative reports of reported dry wells by county from 2014 to the present.

These tools are a starting point for identifying areas to conduct outreach, and the following section outlines effective steps. While the tools above provide a helpful baseline, actual confirmation of domestic well

locations and numbers is irreplicable. The questions below will help further ensure you are adequately accounting for all drinking water users in your basin:

- Has the GSA developed a well registration program (list of domestic wells and public supply wells in the Subbasin)?
- What domestic well communities are located within the GSA's boundaries? (Please include a map)
- How many domestic wells are located in each community? \_\_\_\_
- What public water systems are located within the GSA's boundaries? (Please include a map)
- How many wells does the public water system have?

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- Have you discovered a new cluster of domestic wells? \_\_\_\_\_
- How could these wells impact the viability of your earlier domestic well impact analysis and previously proposed SMC (including minimum thresholds and measurable objectives)?

Number of DACs: DAC details-Name of DAC Population Size: Source of water: Land Size: Number of Households/Parcels: Estimated Amount of Water Use per AC/ft per year: Name of contact/local community-based organization (Aim for 2-3 per DAC) Email/phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Last contacted (Should make contact at least 5 times per year) Name of DAC  $\_\_$ Population Size: Source of water: Number of Households/Parcels: Land Size: Estimated Amount of Water Use per AC/ft per year: Name of contact/local community-based organization (Aim for 2-3 per DAC) Email/phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Last contacted (should make at least 5 contacts) \_\_\_\_\_ Name of DAC \_\_\_\_ Population Size: Source of water: Number of Households/Parcels: Land Size: Estimated Amount of Water Use per AC/ft per year: Name of contact/local community-based organization (Aim for 2-3 per DAC) \_\_\_\_\_

Email/phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Last contacted (should make at least 5 contacts) \_\_\_\_\_

## **2. Perform public outreach**

Text/ comment box: DWR guidance: "Direct outreach to drinking water well users with a meaningful approach for how to engage and involve community members and organizations in decision-making; meet the community in suitable locations and at times when community members are available; communicate in the preferred language of drinking water well users; provide materials so community members can engage and understand technical information for a non-technical audience." pg. 4

After identifying drinking water users, the GSA must conduct public outreach. Public outreach can take many different forms. Below we outline some steps to ensure you are conducting meaningful and direct outreach.

## **Planning for Public Outreach** (To be completed prior to public outreach):

In order to effectively include impacted residents, partner with established, trusted, groups in the area such as community based organizations, religious groups, etc. to generate better attendance to public meetings. Additionally, host public meetings during the week, ideally Tuesday through Thursday, at or after 5:30 pm. For many working residents, this is a time that allows them time to drive to in-person meetings after work and/or attend to family-related obligations prior to the meeting. Also, hosting meetings that allow for the flexibility of bringing children to the meeting can reduce barriers to head of household participation.

- Title of meeting or project: \_
- Date outreach will begin:
- $\bullet$  If meeting, date and time of meeting(s):
	- $\circ$  Is this a reasonable and accessible day AND time for the majority of interested parties, including working residents, to attend this meeting? [Box Y or N]
	- Will meetings include translation support? [Box Y or N]
		- Does this translation support include written translation, verbal, or both:
	- o Location of the meeting:
		- Is the venue for the meeting accessible to the majority of interested parties?
		- Is a virtual/call-in option available to be offered? [Box Y or N]
		- Is a virtual/call-in option going to be offered? [Box Y or N]
- Have you created a list of potential interested parties and stakeholders? [Box Y or N]
	- For example: residents, schools, childcare facilities, state small water systems, drinking water utilities including privately owned ones, community service districts, food pantries, community based organizations, housing assistance, etc.
- Which of the following outreach methods geared to increasing equity and inclusion will be utilized? Please note that a combination of outreach strategies will be needed to maximize effective outreach to the communities:

[] Door-to-door outreach

Places, dates, and times conducted: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Was outreach conducted at accessible days/times for the public? [Box Y /N]

Translation provided:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

[ ] Attending existing community meetings/events to share meeting details and/or Information

Meeting/events where details were shared for how to engage (organization hosting meeting, title of meeting, and date of meeting): $\frac{1}{2}$ 

Translation provided:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

[ ] Place issue/event on agendas of local governing boards (*e.g*. Community Services Districts, City Councils); attend meetings to talk about drinking water mitigation with decision-makers.

[ ] Direct Mail

Dates mailed: **We are all that the set of the** 

Translation provided:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

[ ] Posting information/flyers at high traffic locations such as local grocery stores, community centers, religious centers, libraries, water filling stations, and gas stations

Locations to be posted:

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Translation provided:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

[ ] Sending a media advisory or press release to local outlets (radio and television; include non-English language outlets where available)

Outlets reached and when:

Translation provided:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

[ ] Social media

Outlets posted (Facebook event/ad/post, Instagram, Twitter, NextDoor, etc.): Translation provided:

[ ] Text messaging platform [\(ThruText\)](https://www.getthru.app/) Date(s) sent: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Translation provided:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

[] Other methods used: (for example: outreach to other trusted spaces used by the community such as family resource centers, schools, etc.)\_

What are the barriers to participation that should be considered throughout this process? (examples: language, location, time, transportation, childcare, power dynamics, etc.):

● Has the general public been notified about the meeting/project? [Box Y or N]

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○ If Y, how and when (date/s) was the public notified? \_

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○ If N, what was the reasoning for not notifying the public? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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• What avenues are being provided for interested parties to be able to comment/provide feedback? (Examples: dedicated time in the meaning open for public comment, a written/online form in which comment/feedback can be input, contact information for someone to speak directly with, etc.)

● How will interested parties' comments/feedback be incorporated into the project? \_

#### *Engaging* **in Public Outreach** (To be completed following meeting/project completion):

Now that you have planned for outreach, it's important to start reaching out to individuals/organizations and tracking your interaction with them.

- Name of organization/individual who will lead public outreach/provided feedback:
- Email and/or phone number of organization or individual contact:

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- Community represented:
	- Is this defined as a disadvantaged community? [Box Y or N]
- Outreach method(s) used to invite (door-to-door, public event, flyering, phone, email, etc.):

# **3. Understand basin conditions**

To ensure mitigation programs reflect up-to-date basin conditions, GSAs should incorporate all data relevant to drinking water users and local groundwater conditions. To map basin conditions, the following data sources, tools, and research can be utilized.

- [SGMA Data Viewer:](https://sgma.water.ca.gov/webgis/?appid=SGMADataViewer#boundaries) This interactive tool shows California groundwater level data, including depth below ground surface, groundwater elevation, and groundwater change in elevation. The tool also includes additional information such as domestic wells that have been reported dry, the density of domestic wells that are susceptible to going dry, and DAC block groups, places, and tracts. This tool will support the GSA in understanding conditions for domestic wells and DACs. GSAs should utilize this tool as an initial review of groundwater conditions.
	- [California's Groundwater Live:](https://sgma.water.ca.gov/CalGWLive/) This tool features the latest groundwater information, live statistics, and a series of interactive dashboards with a focus on groundwater levels, well infrastructure information, and subsidence. This site includes the [Dry Domestic Well](https://dwr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/f876cfa53ce3466c8b3778e7f4adb50e)  [Susceptibility tool.](https://dwr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/f876cfa53ce3466c8b3778e7f4adb50e)
	- [Online System of Well Completion Reports \(OSWCR\) database:](https://dwr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=181078580a214c0986e2da28f8623b37) This database is a repository to provide GSAs with data on location of wells, planned use, well depth. This repository will help GSAs create a representative monitoring network for groundwater levels and groundwater quality in respect to shallow domestic wells.<sup>[3](#page-167-0)</sup>[Dry Well Reporting System:](https://mydrywell.water.ca.gov/report/) This site is for Californians to report voluntarily when their private well has gone dry. The site provides cumulative reports of reported dry wells by county from 2014 to the present.
- [Water Shortage Vulnerability Tool:](https://dwr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b20d1b8b751c42f9a067a915544e512c&extent=-13960048.223%2C4383164.2643%2C-13040357.8986%2C4846678.4038%2C102100) Created to support the implementation of SB 552, this tool was designed to provide information on small water systems and domestic wells that are at risk of being dewatered. This tool will support the GSA in identifying small systems and domestic wells within

<span id="page-167-0"></span><sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> OSWCR represents a database of WCRs submitted to DWR, not an inventory of all wells. The quality of the information in OSWCR is only as good as what is submitted (i.e., location accuracy, lithology, etc.). GSAs can work with all available information, including WCRs and well permit databases, etc. to compile and maintain a well inventory.

their basins that are at risk of being dewatered. This will support GSAs in identifying areas where demand management should take place immediately and where mitigation programs may be most needed.

- [CWC Drinking Water Tool:](https://drinkingwatertool.communitywatercenter.org/) The tool provides information about the ways that communities across the state might be vulnerable to groundwater challenges that could affect their access to long-term safe and affordable drinking water. The tool identifies domestic well communities and community water system communities.
- [Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment](https://gamagroundwater.waterboards.ca.gov/gama/gamamap/public/) (GAMA): This tool displays groundwater quality data from several different sources and provides access to approximately 87 million analytical results from over 290,000 wells in California. This tool helps users assess groundwater quality and identify potential groundwater quality issues. With the featured option of adding a time frame to data display, this tool will allow the GSA to assess trends in contaminants during drought, to ensure groundwater quality is added to mitigation programs.
- [SGMA Groundwater Quality Visualization Tool:](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/sgma/water-quality-visualization-tool.html) This tool was developed to support GSAs in identifying exceeding water quality criteria in their basins. For additional support, the tool also displays data on which wells specifically have exceedances and allows for data to be viewed by contaminants. Furthermore, a GSA is also able to view basin trends by constituent. This tool should be utilized by GSAs to identify which contaminants increase during extreme weather events, such as droughts or floods, in order to adequately identify contaminants to be included in mitigation programs.
- Increased Pumping in California's Central Valley During Drought Worsens Groundwater Quality [The USGS National Water Information System](https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1029/2021GL094398) (NWIS): Intensive pumping of aquifers during drought can speed up deterioration of groundwater quality, highlighting clean drinking water supply vulnerabilities in California and other western states that experience record drought conditions. GSAs should consider this when creating mitigation programs.

As you are gathering basin condition information, ensure you are tracking the following information:

- What are the groundwater level impacts to disadvantaged communities in the basin? (Please include a map) \_\_\_\_
- What are the water quality impacts to disadvantaged communities in the basin? (Please include a map $)$
- What are the subsidence impacts to disadvantaged communities in the basin? (Please include a map) What are the seawater intrusion impacts to disadvantaged communities in the basin? (Please include a map) \_\_\_\_
- What new information has been gathered via outreach regarding groundwater conditions in disadvantaged communities (i.e. number of wells impacted since 2015, water quality impacts, subsidence impacts, current issues with accessing safe drinking water, etc.)?
- Are there any gaps you are finding as you are analyzing basin conditions (e.g. no monitoring wells near small water systems, domestic wells, DACs, etc)?

# **4. Evaluate monitoring network and representative monitoring sites**

In order to effectively manage and monitor groundwater in a way that is protective of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, it is important to have a robust monitoring network and representative monitoring sites. As GSAs are working on mitigation programs, it is important to evaluate current monitoring networks and representative monitoring sites to ensure they are adequately capturing

groundwater levels and groundwater quality for domestic wells and small water systems. Below are recommended steps to evaluate monitoring networks and representative monitoring sites:

- Map all DACs, domestic wells, and small water systems in the subbasin is a necessary initial step to adequately evaluate monitoring networks and representative monitoring sites.
- Utilize an overlay system to evaluate proximity of monitoring network wells to DACs, domestic wells, and small water systems.
- Utilize an overlay system to evaluate proximity of representative monitoring wells to DACs, domestic wells, and small water systems.
- Representative monitoring wells should be at least within one mile of DACs, domestic wells, and small water systems.
- If monitoring networks and representative monitoring sites are not capturing groundwater levels and quality for domestic wells and small water systems within DACs, the GSA should develop and implement a plan to address this data gap.
	- Coordinate and enter into agreements with landowners with domestic wells to have those wells be representative monitoring sites.

Text/ comment box: DWR Guidance: "Establish representative monitoring sites near high densities of drinking water well users, DACs, SDACs, or other rural communities; establish representative wells with similar depths as drinking water wells to be able to monitor and measure groundwater levels and conditions for drinking water well users; educate, train, and empower drinking water well owners to measure water levels, report to GSA, and understand the meaning of groundwater levels and conditions at their well locations, including what the minimum threshold is at or near their well's location." Pg. 4

Text/ comment box: Framework**: "**Evaluate groundwater levels and predict potential groundwater impacts to drinking water wells with a representative monitoring system. The representative monitoring system should be used to do the following:

- Monitor and forecast changes in groundwater levels and quality;
- Monitor and forecast any localized areas for special attention [such as DACs, domestic wells, and small public supply wells] and/or monitoring;
- Identify domestic wells or small public supply wells at risk of groundwater level and water quality impacts;
- Determine if triggers have been met based on the adaptive management framework;
- Incorporate the results above into an annual GSP progress report given to domestic well owners and community water systems" Pg. 4

# **5. Evaluate Sustainable Management Criteria**

Text/ Comment box: DWR Guidance: "Establish and revise sustainable management criteria based on analysis of understanding of basin conditions and considering potential impacts to drinking water well users; if minimum thresholds are set below 2015 groundwater levels, consider projects and management actions to address impacts or carefully justify how unaddressed impacts are consistent with the basin's sustainability goal." Pg. 4

# *Minimum Threshold (MT)*

Set and/or revise MTs to protect drinking water users. For shallow wells within close proximity to representative monitoring sites, ensure the depth of shallow drinking water well is below the minimum

threshold established at the monitoring site. If the depth of a drinking water well is equal to or shallower than the minimum threshold at the nearby monitoring well, the drinking water well is not protected.

# *Adaptive Trigger System and Quantifiable Measures*

As part of an adaptive management approach, developing a protective warning system can alert groundwater managers when groundwater levels and groundwater quality are dropping to a level that could potentially negatively affect drinking water users. These "triggers" are useful for groundwater management and can be adjusted to fit the needs of different management actions as well as the basin as a whole.

Furthermore, it is important that a trigger system incorporates triggers for not just depletion of groundwater levels, but also the degradation of groundwater quality associated with depleting groundwater levels, such as arsenic and nitrates. Many residents may have wells with both declining water levels and water quality degradation.

The trigger system should be developed in collaboration with stakeholders, in particular groups that are more susceptible to groundwater changes, and then tied back to quantifiable measures such as the GSP measurable objectives, MCLs, and numbers of partially or fully dry drinking water wells. For groundwater levels, triggers should be developed based on an estimate of potential drinking water wells being impacted across the GSA, or drinking water wells at risk of going dry if current trends continue. For groundwater quality and seawater intrusion, triggers should be developed based on an estimate of potential drinking water wells being impacted across the GSA, or drinking water wells at risk of reaching the MCL if current trends continue. The percentage and/or number of impacted wells is what the GSA needs to address and budget for in the mitigation program.

# *Corrective Actions*

## *Immediate Support*

When groundwater conditions reach the yellow light, the GSA, in coordination with the respective county, should prioritize providing immediate support to the drinking water user. Potential immediate support includes replacement water (bottled water and water tank), wellhead treatment, point of use treatment, etc. Residents should receive emergency bottled water within 24 hours of a reported outage.

# *Analysis/ Investigation*

Next, the GSA should conduct a site-specific analysis/ investigation to pinpoint the cause. In the analysis, the GSA should obtain basic data on the well such as depth, elevation of screen(s), pump depth, static depth, water levels during pumping, groundwater quality trends, and seawater intrusion trends (depending on the impact). With this information, the GSA can pinpoint potential causes of impacts such as overpumping, overall declining groundwater levels, well interference, movement of contaminant plumes, etc.

# *Evaluate SMCs and Pumping*

After the analysis/ investigation, the GSA should consider reassessing pumping allocations and pumping patterns, restricting or limiting groundwater extraction near the triggered area, and reevaluating SMCs (minimum thresholds or measurable objectives).

The table below provides an example of what a trigger system might look like, using green, yellow, and red light indicators or triggers, and some potential corrective actions groundwater managers can take to remedy the problem. Ultimately, this approach allows for the evaluation of current conditions in order to respond and prevent negative impacts.







# **6. Develop and implement projects and management actions: drinking water mitigation program**

Text/ Comment box: DWR Guidance: "Support drinking water well users to have a long-term, reliable water supply with projects and management actions that address impacts; avoid projects and management actions that exclude certain drinking water well users and ensure that the benefits of projects and management actions are not arbitrary or inequitable; coordinate with local well permitting agencies to ensure new drinking water wells are constructed to provide reliable supply under minimum threshold conditions and that new, large supply wells will not have impacts on nearby drinking water wells" Pg. 4

Text/ Comment box: DWR Guidance: "...such a [mitigation] program should be reasonably structured so that it does not arbitrarily or inequitably exclude certain drinking water well users and GSAs should be cautious in program requirements that may exclude users based on age of well, location, socioeconomic status, demographics, and other relevant factors." Pg. 11

# *Funding*

Any drinking water mitigation program should be coordinated with the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund Program (which aims to implement short- and long-term drinking water solutions within vulnerable communities) via the SWRCB's Division of Drinking Water. Funding from the SWRCB's Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund Program cannot be utilized to ameliorate negative impacts to safe drinking water access in vulnerable communities that are a result of implementation of GSPs. GSAs have the authority and responsibility to manage groundwater use in a manner that is sustainable, and considers drinking water uses and users as required under SGMA GSAs should make their management decisions based on the full costs that they will incur if management decisions lead to impaired wells. However, coordinating with the program for administration of services which are fully funded by the GSA is appropriate and may be the most efficient. SWRCB staff are already connected to technical assistance providers and can help respond efficiently.

Text/ Comment box: DWR Guidance: "Prior to planning or implementing activities to address drinking water impacts, GSAs are encouraged to begin coordination with other local entities such as local water systems and counties. Small water suppliers will have water shortage contingency plans for compliance with SB 55258 as a stand-alone plan and larger suppliers will have a drought contingency plan as part of their urban water management plans. Under SB 552, counties will have a drought resilience plan that addresses domestic wells either as a stand-alone or as part of an existing county plan such as a local hazard mitigation plan, emergency operations plan, climate action plan, or general plan." Pg. 18

• Coordinate with counties on drought resilience/ SB552 plans

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- Has the GSA identified the county contact for emergency response and/or responsible for drought resilience plans?
- Name, phone number & email for contact:
- Has the GSA invited them to be part of the GSP implementation process?
- Has the GSA informed them of GSP implementation activities related to drinking water users? \_
- Has the GSA identified opportunities for collaboration on projects and management actions? \_\_\_\_\_
- Coordinate with water quality programs
	- Has the GSA formed a coordination agreement, Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), or a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with water quality programs (CV-SALTS, Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, etc.)?
	- How often does the GSA coordinate with water quality programs?
	- Is the GSA obtaining updated water quality data from water quality programs through coordination? \_\_\_\_\_
	- Is the GSA coordinating with water quality programs to track all contaminants of concern within the basin that can be exacerbated by groundwater use? \_\_\_\_\_
	- Is the coordination done in a public meeting? \_\_\_\_\_
- What action items do the coordinating parties commit to implement the mitigation program and ensure continuous access to safe and affordable drinking water?
- Identify sustainable funding source
	- What is the main funding source for the program? <u>\_\_\_\_\_</u>
	- How many years will this source cover?
	- What pumping fee amount would cover the cost if that source cannot be secured or runs out?
	- Does this funding cover administrative costs to implement the program? Is there staff dedicated to implementing the program?
	- If the compromised well meets the criteria, will the GSA cover the full costs of the mitigated well?
	- A reimbursement process can place undue burden on the well owner. Will the GSA provide upfront funding to cover the costs of the mitigated well?
- Set commitments and timelines for the mitigation program
	- Has the GSA set a goal for how many wells will get mitigated?
	- What is the GSA's strategy to provide emergency bottled water for all well failures within 24 hours?
	- What is the GSA's strategy to haul water for any longer-term outages? \_\_\_\_\_
- Define eligibility criteria and corrective actions
	- What is the process for determining individual well eligibility? Does the process include a field inspection?
		- Has the GSA verified well construction information and pump setting information (if possible)? \_\_\_\_\_
		- Has the GSA defined the level of mitigation that is necessary based on a field inspection to determine static depth to groundwater levels within the impacted well?
			- Has the GSA defined a groundwater level that acts as a hard decision point when a well needs remediation?
		- Has the GSA defined the level of mitigation that is necessary based on a field inspection to determine groundwater quality within the impacted well?
- Create an accessible application process

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- Review examples: 1) [Request Form](https://www.dropbox.com/s/inkx1ydxk25z14l/Mitigation%20Request%20Form.pdf?dl=0) and 2) [Online Application](https://tmwa.com/doing-business-with-us/wellmitigation/)
- What documentation does the well user need to demonstrate eligibility?
- Has the application been translated to Spanish and other commonly used languages?
- Are there barriers to users demonstrating past use?
- How will the GSA address those barriers?
- **Track and report progress**

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- How often does the public receive information about the mitigation program? Are updates provided at GSA board meetings, GSA advisory meetings, and other public meetings?
- Are updates provided in annual reports submitted to DWR?\_\_\_\_\_
- Long-term solutions
	- What is the GSA's strategy to fund long-term solutions for clusters of shallow wells consistently at risk of going dry and getting contaminated? \_\_\_\_\_
	- What domestic well communities are located within the GSA's boundaries?

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- Is it feasible to connect the identified domestic wells to a public water system?
	- What public water systems are located within your boundaries?
		- Which public water systems have the capacity to add additional connections? \_\_\_\_\_
- If a domestic well or cluster of domestic wells cannot be connected to a public water system what is the best alternative?
	- Can a new public water system be created?
		- How will the construction of the new public water system be funded?
		- What is the estimated time to construct and bring the new public water system online?
		- Will the GSA address on-going operations and maintenance costs? ?
	- Can funding be allocated to deepen well or lower well pump.
	- What alternative source can be utilized to provide adequate water supply?
	- Can funding be allocated for a new, deeper well. Can the new well be drilled below the set minimum threshold?
	- Can funding be allocated to treat contaminated water?

Text/ Comment box: SB 552 Minimum Resiliency Requirements reduce the risk of small water suppliers experiencing impacts to drinking water supply because of low groundwater levels. GSAs should consider providing support to small water suppliers to meet these requirements to reduce potential impacts to groundwater users.

- SB552
	- Will funding be allocated to support on-going monitoring of the system and water quality? SB 552 Minimum Resiliency Requirements
		- Has the GSA reviewed the Minimum Resiliency Requirements for small water suppliers under [SB 552?](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB552)
		- Has the GSA identified the small water suppliers (15-999 connections) who are at risk of water shortage?
- Are any small water suppliers located in disadvantaged communities? \_\_\_\_\_Have any small water suppliers experienced water shortage in the past?
- Do any small water suppliers have aging or inadequate infrastructure?
- How does the GSA communicate with the identified small water suppliers in order to understand the small water suppliers' possible drinking water resilience needs? 2
	- Are any small water suppliers in need of the following developments?
		- An additional well or intertie
		- Adequate water supply, water treatment system, water flow rate needed to fight fires
		- Monitoring system to detect groundwater levels
		- Service connection metering
		- Backup electrical supply

# **7. Continue Engagement and Fill Data Gaps**

The purpose of this section is to evaluate the effectiveness of implemented management actions and propose useful and/or necessary changes to the program based on the evaluation. It is important to address data gaps that are identified through the public engagement process. After identifying additional data gaps in groundwater levels, water quality, and impacts to drinking water users, the GSA should make a plan to address them. Below are questions to support filling in data gaps:

DWR Guidance: "Engage drinking water well users during Plan updates and implementation of projects and management actions; continue filling data gaps that could support and improve the understanding of current and future impacts to drinking water well users." Pg. 4

● What instruments have been utilized to gauge the effectiveness of this program (surveys, feedback from program participants, etc.)? What were the results?

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- What is the evaluation process by which gaps in data will be identified across the basin?
- What technologies and/or software are being used to populate and monitor data?

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● How have data points previously been selected and what events triggered knowledge of data gaps?

- What is the process to resolve identified data gaps? Has the GSA coordinated with the relevant state and local agencies?
- How will gaps in data be prioritized for resolution?
- With the new data, how will the GSA modify the plan, projects, and management actions?

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● As the plan evolves and updates are made, what is the strategy for how interested parties/stakeholder feedback will be solicited?

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● How will interested parties/stakeholders be included in the process as plan updates are made (i.e methods used to solicit/incorporate their feedback)? Have they been effective? Please explain.





December 20, 2024

Stephanie Anagnoson Plan Manager Madera Subbasin Joint Groundwater Sustainability Plan via email: stephanie.anagnoson@maderacounty.com

## **Re: Madera Subbasin Joint GSP Amendment Public Review Draft**

Dear Ms. Anagnoson,

The Madera Ag Water Association (MAWA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Madera Subbasin Joint Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Amendment Public Review Draft.

MAWA is a non-profit membership organization representing farmers operating in the undistricted areas of Madera County that works with its members, the Madera County Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MCGSA), and other stakeholders toward successful implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) in Madera County.

## **Amendments Addressing Corrective Actions**

MAWA appreciates the amendments to the GSP that address the corrective actions suggested by the Department of Water Resources during the original GSP approval, including the technical amendments regarding sustainable management criteria, land subsidence, and modeling (actions 3,4,5,6). In particular, MAWA commends those working on the plan on addressing the corrective actions related to coordination between the GSAs (actions 1,2).

## **Addition of Section 4.4.4.2**

The addition of Section 4.4.4.2, an explanation of the implementation of the demand management program in the Madera County GSA, clarifies that "[a]lthough the MC GSA has not been able to make much progress on the other projects it intended to implement to increase recharge in its area, its demand management program is designed to meet the sustainability goal by 2040, without those projects." (page 4-46).
This additional language as it underscores that even with a minimal MCGSA GSP Fee limited to domestic well mitigation, the existing demand management program and allocation rampdown outlined in Section 4.4.4.2 is designed to achieve the sustainability goal by 2040. If and when GSP Fees are implemented in the MCGSA, MAWA supports a minimal fee focused on domestic well mitigation. The additional language in Section 4.4.4.2 clarifies that this approach should still achieve the sustainability goal without the need to adjust the current allocation schedule. Any GSP Fees should be developed with a thorough public outreach process.

#### **Domestic Well Mitigation**

MAWA encourages the continued effort to establish a Domestic Well Mitigation Program (DWM) in Subbasin and appreciates the addition of language regarding a DWM Program in Section 1.3.3. MAWA is interested in collaborating on a program and assisting in establishing a program where possible.

#### **Conclusion**

MAWA appreciates the opportunity to comment and looks forward to continuing to work with our members and the Madera County GSA in successfully implementing SGMA in our County.

> Sincerely, The Madera Ag Water Association, Inc.



Stephanie Anagnoson Director of Water and Natural Resources Madera County

*Sent via Email*

December 20, 2024

#### **Re: Comments on Madera Subbasin Draft 2025 Plan Update**

Dear Madera Subbasin,

Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability works alongside low income communities of color in the San Joaquin Valley and the Eastern Coachella Valley. As is most relevant here, we work in partnership with community leaders in the communities of Fairmead and La Vina to advocate for local, regional and state government entities to address their community's needs for the basic elements that make up a safe and healthy community, including safe, accessible and affordable drinking water. Based on our Technical Analysis (analysis), attached as Exhibit A, we are concerned that the Madera Subbasin's (Subbasin) Draft 2025 Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update (Draft 2025 Plan Update) does not adequately address potential impacts to drinking water users. As such we present the following comments and recommendations.

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#### **The Draft 2025 Plan Update does not address continued groundwater depletion**

Despite the two historic wet years and implementation of demand management strategies in the Subbasin, chronic groundwater level declines persist in the Subbasin. Hydrographs in Appendix 3A show average declines of 10–15 feet between 2020 and 2024, consistent with DWR's report indicating a 10–20 foot drop from Spring 2020 to Spring 2023. Furthermore, based on our attached analysis, groundwater levels are not projected to recover to Measurable Objectives (MOs) nor Minimum Thresholds (MTs) by 2040. Appendix 3A hydrographs, which do not extend to 2040, show 51% of Representative Monitoring Wells (RMWs) remaining below MTs (based on 2015 levels) and 68% below MOs.

Additionally, as per the Draft 2025 Plan Update, Madera County GSA's annual overdraft is estimated at about 111,000 AFY. Based on the proposed SMCs and projects and management actions, it is unclear if the Subbasin will be able to reduce these overdraft conditions by 2040, especially given the continued groundwater levels decline.

Due to the continued chronic declines and the lack of clarity on 2040 projections raise concerns about the Draft 2025 Plan Update's ability to achieve sustainability. We recommend that the Subbasin reconsider demand management strategies to ensure the Subbasin is making consistent progress towards eliminating overdraft conditions.

## **The Draft 2025 Plan Update's Proposed Mitigation Program is Inadequate**

The Subbasin's inclusion of a Domestic Well Mitigation Program in its Projects and Management Actions and Madera County's SB 552 grant application is appreciated. However, we are concerned that the current proposal inadequately addresses the impacts of the Draft 2025 Plan Update on domestic wells and small water systems.

First, there are discrepancies in the program costs estimates. The Technical Memorandum in Appendix 2G estimates 1,578 domestic wells will go dry by 2040, requiring \$39 million for mitigation.<sup>1</sup> In contrast, Appendix 3D estimates only 43–228 impacted wells, significantly lowering projected costs.<sup>2</sup> This discrepancy is unexplained and raises concerns about the adequacy of mitigation measures and financial planning.

Second, we are concerned that there is inadequate funding for the program. The Subbasin's \$125,000 SB 552 grant, allocated for monitoring well installation and facilitation services, while helpful, is insufficient to cover the estimated \$39 million needed to mitigate 1,578 wells. Even at lower program cost estimates in Appendix 3D, the SB 552 grant does not sufficiently fund the mitigation of even a few domestic wells.

Last, we are concerned about the impacts of continued legal barriers within the subbasin will have on program implementation. The ongoing injunction in Madera County prevents fee collection for project implementation, leaving both the program and Draft 2025 Plan update activities's funding source unclear.

We recommend that the Subbasin revise their project according to the guidance found in the "Framework for a Drinking Water Well Impact Mitigation Program" and DWR's "Considerations for Identifying and Addressing Drinking Water Well Impacts" and revising groundwater levels SMCs to bring down mitigation costs substantially. 3 If this is not done, the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Madera Subbasin Joint GSP (January 2025), Appendix 2G pg 12

<sup>2</sup> Madera Subbasin Joint GSP (January 2025), Appendix 3D pgs A3 - D2

<sup>3</sup> Framework for a Drinking Water Well Impact Mitigation Program. Available at:

https://bit.ly/MitigationFramework.; Considerations for Identifying and Addressing Drinking Water Well Impacts. Available at: https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Drinking-Water-Well

Draft 2025 Plan Update risks having disproportionate impacts on domestic well owners and small water systems.

## **The Draft 2025 Plan Update does not adequately address the further degradation of groundwater quality**

As per the Draft 2025 Plan Update, groundwater levels are expected to fall below 2015 levels during the GSP implementation period. Given the further depletion of groundwater levels, it is reasonable to anticipate that some wells might experience degraded water quality, especially with contaminants such as arsenic and nitrates. Furthermore, it is unclear to what extent the proposed SMCs for further degradation of groundwater quality, took into account the impacts of further depletion of groundwater levels throughout the implementation period.

Last, It is not clear if the Domestic Well Mitigation Program will mitigate domestic wells with water quality impacts due to declining groundwater levels. While Appendix 3E mentions residential water treatment equipment as a "potential program mitigation measure", the lack of further detail or commitment introduces uncertainty about whether and how such measures would be implemented.

In line with the above recommendations, we recommend revising the project to align with the "Framework for a Drinking Water Well Impact Mitigation Program" and Department of Water Resources's (DWR) "Considerations for Identifying and Addressing Drinking Water Well Impacts and revising groundwater quality SMCs to bring down mitigation costs substantially. If this is not done, the Draft 2025 Plan Update risks having disproportionate impacts on domestic well owners and small water systems.

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We appreciate the Madera Subbasin staff's willingness to dialogue about our concerns and recommendations, and we welcome the opportunity to discuss our recommendations to ensure compliance with state law. We hope to successfully work with Subbasins, communities and DWR to ensure that groundwater management is equitable and sufficiently protective of vital drinking water resources.

Sincerely, Nataly Escobedo Garcia, PhD Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

#### **APPENDIX A**

#### **Review of the Madera Subbasin Joint Groundwater Sustainability Plan Amended January 2025**

A review of the Madera Subbasin Joint Groundwater Sustainability Plan Amended January 2025 (Draft 2025 GSP) was conducted with a focus on selected elements related to the: (1) current and projected groundwater levels, (2) Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) for groundwater levels, (3) projected well impacts and mitigation, and (4) planned demand management. Comments are organized by the above categories, and excerpts from the Draft 2025 GSP and relevant appendices are presented in blue italicized text.

#### **1. Current and Projected Groundwater Levels**

*Draft 2025 GSP Page 3-43: "Domestic well owners may experience declining groundwater levels during the initial 10 to 15 years of the GSP implementation period, followed by stabilization of water levels during the latter portion of the GSP implementation period and recovery to historical Fall 2015 groundwater levels after 2040."*

The Draft 2025 GSP states that groundwater levels are expected to recover to historical Fall 2015 levels after 2040. Appendix 3A of the Draft 2025 GSP includes hydrographs showing the observed and projected 2035 groundwater elevations for the 37 Representative Monitoring Wells (RMWs) within the basin.

*Recent conditions indicate that chronic groundwater level declines continue to occur in the basin*. Based on the hydrographs in Appendix 3A, groundwater elevations at the RMWs on average declined approximately 10 to15 feet (ft) between 2020 and 2024. Based on the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Seasonal Groundwater Level Report, 4 the change in groundwater levels between Spring 2020 and Spring 2023 within the basin ranged from -10 to -20 ft,<sup>5</sup> which is generally consistent with the change in groundwater levels from the Appendix 3A hydrographs.

*Groundwater levels are not projected to recover to the Measurable Objectives (MOs) or Minimum Thresholds (MTs) by 2040*. Notably the hydrographs in Appendix 3A do not extend to 2040 (the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act [SGMA] compliance deadline). Further, we note that 19 of the RMWs (51%) show projected groundwater elevations remaining well below their MTs, which are based on the 2015 groundwater levels and 25 of the RMWs (68%) show projected groundwater elevations remaining well below their MOs. An example hydrograph is shown below.

The continued chronic declines in groundwater levels and the lack of transparency regarding anticipated 2040 conditions raise concerns about the accuracy of the projected recovery timeline and whether the GSP's implementation measures are sufficient to achieve sustainability

<sup>4</sup> DWR, 2023. California's Groundwater Conditions Semi-Annual Update, dated October 2023.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> SGMA Data [Viewer,](https://sgma.water.ca.gov/webgis/?appid=SGMADataViewer#gwlevels) accessed on 22 November 2024.

by 2040. At a minimum, the hydrographs should be extended to 2040 to demonstrate whether or not the basin has a credible plan to achieve sustainability by 2040.



*Example Hydrograph for an RMW Showing Projected Groundwater Elevations Below the MT in 2035*

#### **2. Sustainable Management Criteria – Groundwater Levels**

*2025 GSP Page 3-32: "the MT for groundwater levels is defined as the Fall 2015 groundwater level at each RMS well."*

*2025 GSP Page 3-33: "At the same time, the GSAs recognize that while groundwater levels are anticipated to fall below 2015 levels during the GSP implementation period, the implementation of projects and management actions is expected to cause groundwaters to return to historical levels by 2040."*

*2025 GSP Page 3-43: "Domestic well owners may experience declining groundwater levels during the initial 10 to 15 years of the GSP implementation period, followed by stabilization of water levels during the latter portion of the GSP implementation period and recovery to historical Fall 2015 groundwater levels after 2040. However, potential adverse impacts to domestic and municipal wells from declining groundwater levels are expected to be addressed through a Domestic Well Mitigation Program, as needed (Appendices 3.D and 3.E), but no later than 2025"*

Based on the Draft 2025 GSP, sustainable conditions (i.e., a return to Fall 2015 groundwater levels) will not be achieved until at least 2040 (i.e., sometimes the GSP commits to achieving sustainability by 2040, sometimes after 2040; see bolded text in the above excerpts), and

groundwater levels are expected to fall below 2015 levels during the GSP implementation period. While a Domestic Well Mitigation Program is mentioned to address potential adverse impacts to domestic and municipal wells, the Draft 2025 GSP does not explicitly quantify how many domestic or drinking water wells may be dewatered before 2040, nor does it discuss the results of the well impact analysis presented in Appendix 2G. As a result, readers cannot readily assess the reasonableness or adequacy of the Domestic Well Mitigation Program in relation to the anticipated impacts.

*2025 GSP Page 3-48: "The land subsidence MT is set at a rate of 0.00 feet/year. However, compliance with this threshold will take into consideration the level of uncertainty associated with survey measurements. SJRRP has reported that survey measurements have a vertical accuracy of +/-2.5 centimeters (Reclamation, 2011). With two measurements necessary to calculate a rate (before and after), the total uncertainty in the subsidence rate value is 5 centimeters, or approximately -0.16 feet/year. Therefore, a rate of subsidence of less than -0.16 feet/year (values that are less negative) are considered to be within the uncertainty of the measurement and would be considered compliant with the MT of 0.00 feet/year."*

*2025 GSP Page 3-9: "The potential impact of establishment of the groundwater level IMs for this GSP that result in new lows can be estimated from use of the IWFM subsidence package that was recently incorporated into the MCSim Model update (Appendix 6.D). … These estimates of future active subsidence, which generally occur around 2030 based on assumed hydrology and PMA implementation, are estimated to range up to about one foot as shown in Figure 3-2. Additional subsidence at the groundwater level IMs ranges from negligible along the San Joaquin River along the southern subbasin boundary, to about 0.5 feet over the middle portion of the Subbasin, to a maximum of about one foot in the northwest portion of the Subbasin."*

*"While the above description provides our best estimate of groundwater level IM impact on subsidence, it should be noted that residual subsidence (which is more difficult to predict) may be a significant component of total subsidence that would occur without any further groundwater level decline."*

The Draft 2025 GSP estimates that setting groundwater level Interim Milestones (IMs) that result in new water lows can cause up to one foot of additional subsidence within the basin, despite having set the subsidence MT at 0 ft/year. This raises questions about the feasibility of achieving compliance with the subsidence MT given the projected trajectory of water levels in the basin and anticipated impacts at the groundwater level IMs. The Draft 2025 GSP also highlights the issue of residual subsidence, which occurs even without further groundwater level declines.

Given the projected active subsidence and residual subsidence, the GSP should better evaluate the potential subsidence impacts on land uses and property interests (i.e., critical infrastructure, per 23 CCR §354.28(b)(4)) and the nexus to projected groundwater levels. Without addressing these risks, the GSP does not fully comply with 23 CCR §354.28(b)(2) (i.e., the requirement to document the relationship between the MTs for each sustainability indicator, including an

explanation of how it has been has determined that basin conditions at each MT will avoid undesirable results for each of the sustainability indicators.)

*2025 GSP Page 3-7: "some studies have been conducted that document investigations into how TDS, nitrate, and arsenic may be affected by fluctuations in groundwater levels, ..."*

*"The study further concluded that continued municipal and agricultural pumping will likely lead to higher TDS concentrations in deeper groundwater in the future."*

*"The study goes on to suggest that drought/overdraft conditions with declining groundwater levels may cause higher concentrations of nitrate in the shallower zone to migrate vertically downward to enter well screens in deeper zones, thereby resulting in overall contribution of a higher proportion of modern high nitrate groundwater to deep screened wells as groundwater levels decline."*

*"A Stanford study (Smith et al., 2018) suggests higher arsenic concentrations residing in clay layers within aquifers (interbeds) may be released in association with groundwater pumping that causes compaction of clay layers."*

*2025 GSP Page 3-8: "The GSAs are working diligently to implement PMAs to minimize future groundwater level declines and active subsidence, which should serve to reduce the possibility for impacts to groundwater quality."*

The Draft 2025 GSP documents studies that describe how water quality may be impacted by groundwater level declines. Since groundwater levels are expected to fall below 2015 levels during the GSP implementation period, as shown in the example hydrograph above, it is anticipated that some wells might experience degraded water quality. It is not clear if the Domestic Well Mitigation Program will mitigate domestic wells with water quality impacts due to declining groundwater levels. While Appendix 3E mentions residential water treatment equipment as a "potential program mitigation measure", the lack of further detail or commitment introduces uncertainty about whether and how such measures would be implemented.

*2025 GSP Page 3-62: "For the Joint GSP GSAs, a groundwater elevation undesirable result is defined to occur when greater than 30% of the representative monitoring sites each exceed the groundwater level MTs for the same two consecutive Fall readings."*

*"The 30 percent criterion was selected to balance the interest of beneficial use with the practical aspect of groundwater management uncertainty."*

Per 23 CCR § 354.26(a), "Each Agency shall describe in its Plan the processes and criteria relied upon to define undesirable results applicable to the basin. Undesirable results occur when significant and unreasonable effects for any of the sustainability indicators are caused by groundwater conditions occurring throughout the basin."

The Draft 2025 GSP does not detail the processes or criteria used to define undesirable results, nor does it identify the significant and unreasonable effects associated with an undesirable

result. Additionally, the Draft 2025 GSP does not outline the actions GSAs will take when an undesirable result is triggered.

#### **3. Well Impacts and Mitigation**

*Appendix 2G Page 12: "This analysis involved comparing domestic well perforation and depth information to historical groundwater levels and potential future groundwater levels, as simulated by the groundwater model (MCSIM) utilized during the GSP development. Simulated groundwater level conditions from MCSim were used to estimate the number of domestic wells that may go dry during the GSP implementation period from 2020 through 2040, the period during which the Subbasin will be working towards achieving sustainability as required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)."*

*Appendix 2G Page 15: "In the baseline analysis scenario described above, a total of 739 of the 4,822 domestic wells (from WCRs) analyzed are indicated to have gone dry during years prior to 2020. A total of 772 wells are projected to go dry between 2020 and 2039 (Table 4a); the analysis suggests 287 dry wells of the total of 772 occurring during the period 2020*‐*2024."*

*Appendix 2G Page 16: "Scaling the results up to match the expected number of wells based on the Permits*‐*to*‐*WCRs ratio of 1.22:1 yields 942 wells going dry between 2020 and 2040 (Table 5a)."*

*Appendix 2G Page 16: "In the alternative analysis scenario, a total of 755 of the 4,822 domestic wells (from WCRs) analyzed are indicated to have gone dry during years prior to 2020. A total of 1,294 wells are projected to go dry between 2020 and 2039 (Table 4b); the analysis suggests 350 dry wells of the total of 1294 occurring during the period 2020*‐*2024. Table 5b includes the* results for this analysis when scaled up by a multiplier of 1.22 based on the ratio of well permits *to WCRs."*

#### *Appendix 2G Table 5b:*

Table 5b: Adjusted estimates of dry wells for Dry Start Case based on WCRs since 1970 upscaled using ratio of permits to WCRs  $(1.22)$ .



*Appendix 2G Page 17: "To understand influences from different analysis assumptions and parameters, sensitivity analyses were conducted on a number of aspects of the analysis. These*

*sensitivity analyses evaluated different approaches to evaluating the DTW at well locations over each analysis period (e.g., DTW at end of period vs maximum DTW during analysis period), the required minimum saturation threshold for concluding a well is dry, and different cutoff dates for WCRs included in the analysis."*

Appendix 2G of the Draft 2025 GSP describes the methodology used in the well impact analysis, which assessed potential well impacts during the GSP implementation period (2020–2040) based on future groundwater levels simulated using the MCSIM groundwater model. These simulated groundwater levels assume the successful implementation of all Projects and Management Actions (P/MAs) outlined in the GSP, incorporating climate change considerations based on DWR-provided 2030 mean climate change factors. According to the analysis, a significant number of domestic wells—more than 1,500 (27% of domestic wells)—are projected to go dry between 2020 and 2040. However, the number of dry wells could increase if the P/MA implementation is delayed or incomplete or if a more severe climate change scenario is applied. A sensitivity analysis on future groundwater levels and associated well impacts has not been conducted to evaluate the range of potential impacts under varying P/MA implementation and climate change scenarios.

Further the Draft 2025 GSP does not present an assessment of what percentage of drinking water wells are projected to be impacted in the basin and the resultant "depletion of supply" (per 23 CCR § 354.28(c)) and then demonstrate why such level of impacts to beneficial uses and users are not "significant and unreasonable".

*Appendix 2G Page 18: "These costs are summarized in Table 9, and include lowering a domestic well pump (\$1,000 to \$2,000), replacing a domestic well pump (\$5,000 to \$7,000), and drilling/installing a new domestic well to replace an existing well (\$25,000 to \$35,000). Estimates of total costs for a Domestic Well Mitigation Program were based on estimates of total number of dry wells expected to occur between 2020 and 2039, with WCRs scaled to the number of County well permits and considering both the GSP climate scenario and the alternative dry*‐*start climate scenario for the GSP Implementation Period."*

#### *Appendix 2G Attachment 1 Table 1:*



Table 1. Costs of GSP Implementation Scenario Compared to Costs of Immediate Demand Reduction Scenario - Summary Results for Madera Subbasin, Present Value (\$ in Millions)

\* Totals may not add exactly due to rounding.

*Appendix 3D Page A3.D-2: "Between 2015 and 2090, 315 domestic wells are impacted in the without-SGMA analysis, but 87 of those appear to be impacted between 2015 and 2019, prior to the 2020 implementation start (DTW is greater than minimum depth to top perforation). After GSP implementation, 228 (315 minus 87) domestic wells are potentially affected in the comparison of scenarios. Most (218) of the replacements are estimated to occur between 2021 and 2067, and the present value (at 2020) of replacement costs for these impacted domestic wells is \$3.39 million. In the with-SGMA analysis, the number of impacted domestic wells drops from 228 to 43, at a present value cost of \$0.77 million."*

The domestic well replacement economic analysis in Appendix 2G of the Draft 2025 GSP estimates the present cost to mitigate 1,578 impacted domestic wells at \$39 million. However, the well impact analysis results and the estimated mitigation costs presented in Appendix 3D of the Draft 2025 GSP are inconsistent with those in Appendix 2G. Specifically, Appendix 3D used a significantly lower impacted well count for its analysis (i.e., 43-228 wells in Appendix 3D versus 1,578 in Appendix 2G), which leads to a much lower of mitigation costs. This discrepancy in the analysis of impacted wells and associated mitigation costs is not explained and raises concerns about the adequacy of the proposed mitigation measures and the financial planning needed to address the full extent of domestic well impacts during the GSP implementation period.

*2025 GSP Page 3-33: "the GSAs within the Subbasin have proceeded with coordination and focused planning efforts to develop a Domestic Well Mitigation Program (Program), including the development of an MOU (see Appendices 3.D and 3.E)."*

*2025 GSP Page 3-34: "As currently envisioned, well owners seeking mitigation would be required to sign up for the Program and a board, committee, or agency staff would review and approve eligible well mitigation claims. It is expected that the Program would be implemented during the GSP implementation period, as needed, and as described above, no later than in 2025. Program implementation would continue until groundwater sustainability is achieved."*

#### *Appendix 3E: "The Parties agree to fund the Program on an annual basis consistent with the final determination of each Party's proportionate responsibility."*

The Draft 2025 GSP mentions the development of a Domestic Well Mitigation Program, but there are significant uncertainties regarding its adequacy and feasibility, particularly related to funding. While Appendix 3E (Madera Subbasin Domestic Well Mitigation Program Draft Memorandum of Understanding) states that the Parties will fund the Program annually based on proportionate responsibility, the appendix does not provide specific details on the total funding required, the methodology for determining each Party's share, or the availability and reliability of funding sources. Furthermore, the discrepancy between the number of impacted wells and mitigation costs presented in Appendix 2G and Appendix 3D (Economic Analysis and Framework for the Domestic Well Mitigation Program) introduces additional uncertainty about whether the Program is adequately designed and funded to address the full scope of anticipated impacts.

Additionally, it is unclear whether the basin GSAs have conducted an assessment to confirm that the funding commitments will be sufficient to mitigate the estimated 1,578 impacted wells, as outlined in Appendix 2G, or whether contingency plans exist if actual impacts exceed projections. These omissions raise questions about the Program's ability to meet its stated objectives and ensure adequate mitigation throughout the GSP implementation period.

### **4. Demand Management**

*2025 GSP Page 4-45: "At the time the initial Joint GSP was prepared (January 2020), the estimated total quantity of native groundwater for the MC GSA area was 90,000 AFY. At the same time, it was estimated that current land use conditions (at that time) in the MC GSA [Madera County GSA] resulted in approximately 111,000 AFY of overdraft."*

*2025 GSP Page 4-45: "Although the initial Joint GSP contemplated the MC GSA's demand management program reducing extractions by 90,000 AFY by 2040, in fact, as currently existing, the program will reduce extractions by the full 111,000 AFY overdraft."*

*2025 GSP Page 4-46: "the Madera County demand management program will, by 2040, reduce average annual groundwater pumping by 90,000 AF." [it is noted that this text comes from the initial Joint GSP (January 2020)]*

*2025 GSP Page 4-46: "Madera County plans to gradually phase-in demand management between now and 2040. Starting in 2020 and continuing through 2025, average annual groundwater pumping will be reduced by 2% (of the total demand reduction amount) per year, for a total cumulative reduction of 10% by 2025. Groundwater pumping will be reduced by 6% per year starting in 2026 and continuing through 2040. Figure 4-4 illustrates the annual reduction in pumping by year between 2020 and 2040. The annual reduction in pumping in Madera County will equal 90,000 AF by 2040." [it is noted that this text comes from the initial Joint GSP (January 2020)]*

*2025 GSP Page 4-46: "Although the MC GSA has not been able to make much progress on the other projects it intended to implement to increase recharge in its area, its demand management program is designed to meet the sustainability goal by 2040, without those projects."*

Given that the annual overdraft for the Madera County GSA is 111,000 AFY and the demand management program will not fully mitigate this overdraft until 2040, overdraft conditions are expected to persist within the Madera County GSA's jurisdictional area, leading to continued groundwater level declines. Without the implementation of additional projects or management actions to address the full extent of the overdraft, it is unclear how groundwater levels in this portion of the basin will recover to 2015 levels by 2040. As such, well impacts and other undesirable results may continue to occur, potentially beyond what has been presented in the Draft 2025 GSP (which assumes full compliance with the stated objective if at least reaching MTs by 2040).



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#### **VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Stephanie Anagnoson Plan Manager Madera County Department of Water & Natural Resources E-Mail: stephanie.anagnoson@maderacounty.com

#### Re: **Comment Letter – Madera Subbasin Joint GSP Amendment Valley Children's Hospital**

Dear Ms. Anagnoson:

My office represents Valley Children's Hospital ("Valley Children's"). We appreciate the opportunity to be able to provide comments on the draft 2025 Amendment to the Madera Subbasin Joint Groundwater Sustainability Plan ("2025 GSP Update") on behalf of Valley Children's.

We acknowledge the hard work and difficult decisions that went into the 2025 GSP Update. Please accept these comments as a means to help the 2025 GSP Update continue to meet the Department of Water Resources' ("DWR") approval.

#### <span id="page-192-1"></span>**DISCUSSION**

#### **A. Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water**

The 2025 GSP Update appears to have made some inroads into defining and quantifying groundwater dependent ecosystems ("GDEs") and how groundwater pumping may effect interconnected surface water ("ISW") in the San Joaquin River. We support the conclusion that the current and future trends in depth to water in the San Joaquin River Riparian potential GDE Unit indicate stable groundwater conditions and therefore there are likely minimal impacts on the San Joaquin River as a result of groundwater extraction during any time when the aquifer and the rivermay be connected hydrologically.<sup>1</sup>

<span id="page-192-0"></span><sup>1</sup> 2025 GSP Update, p. 3-44.

Stephanie Anagnoson December 20, 2024 Page 2

However, we also understand that there are more data gaps to fill to establish more permanent sustainable management criteria ("SMC"). To wit, the 2025 GSP Update mentions that Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers ("LSCE") has a workplan to conduct further investigations, modeling, testing, and monitoring points along the San Joaquin River. Further, the member agencies submitting the 2025 GSP Update will receive from and share information with the United States Bureau of Reclamation ("USBR") and the Friant Water Authority ("FWA") regarding quantification of total diversions, uses, and estimates of losses along the River, including the USBR's detailed investigation of Holding Contracts along the river.

<span id="page-193-1"></span>In developing the future SMC for ISW along the San Joaquin River, we remind you that Holding Contracts with the USBR are permanent contractual rights to receive a live stream of water appurtenant to the lands identified in the contracts and the continued reasonable, beneficial use of that water, given as compensation for the USBR's infringement on the landowner's water rightsupon operation of the Friant Dam.<sup>2</sup> Those underlying water rights differ from parcel to parcel, but generally include the rights to the use of water in or affected or **influenced by** the San Joaquin River. These vested contractual rights must be accounted for in the development of SMC for ISW.

<span id="page-193-3"></span>Furthermore, groundwater pumping that diverts from the underflow of the San Joaquin Riveris pumped pursuant to those riparian rights, not overlying groundwater rights.<sup>3</sup> SGMA only governs groundwater management, not subsurface waters of a stream. Therefore, the Madera Subbasin GSAs have no authority to restrict pumping from wells diverting from the underflow, if such demand management actions are considered based on possible undesirable results affecting depletions in ISW along the San Joaquin River.

#### **B. Degraded Water Quality**

We appreciate that more detail was added to the degraded water quality analysis in the 2025 GSP Update. It provides that an undesirable result occurs when 10% of Representative Monitoring System ("RMS") wells above the minimum threshold ("MT") for the same constituent due to projects and/or management actions *or overall groundwater extraction*, based on the average of the most recent 3-year period. The 2025 GSP Update added "or overall groundwater extraction." Remediating water quality based on "overall groundwater extraction" is not required by SGMA nor the DWR SGMA regulations. A more precise definition, limiting to effects as of the date of the adoption of the original GSP would be more prudent and prevent unnecessary overlap with existing water quality programs dealing with historical water quality issues (such as the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, CV-SALTS, etc.).

<span id="page-193-0"></span><sup>2</sup> See generally, *Dugan v. Rank* (1963) 372 U.S. 609.

<span id="page-193-2"></span><sup>3</sup> See *Rancho Santa Margarita v. Vail* (1938) 11 Cal.2d 501, 555 ("[I]t is [] well established that the underground and surface portions of the stream constitute one common supply.").

Stephanie Anagnoson December 20, 2024 Page 3

#### **C. Funding**

The projects and management section of the 2025 GSP Update discusses Madera County – Madera Subbasin GSA's (the "County GSA") implementation of the initial GSP to date. We understand that many of the County GSA's planned projects in the 2020 GSP were thwarted due to a lawsuit opposing the County GSA's Proposition 218 process. However, the 2025 GSP Update states that the County GSA's demand management action (i.e., the groundwater allocation) is now able to cover all of the estimated 111,000 acre-feet per year ("AFY") of overdraft in the County GSA area (instead of 90 AFY as originally intended). We strongly encourage the GSA not to abandon seeking funding for supply-side projects, rather than simply relying on the groundwater allocation to meet the overdraft deficit. The County GSA has been very successful in the past with acquiring state assistance for funding projects; however, there are other ways to seek funding if state or federal level funding is drying up. Perhaps attempt another Proposition 218 rate study that has more buy in from growers. We urge the County GSA to continue to seek funding for supply-side projects so that the County GSA can revisit the allocation. The 2025 GSP Update states the County GSA will reevaluate the allocation at a later date, but that should not absolve the County GSA from funding the projects[.](#page-194-0)<sup>4</sup>

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide these comments. Should you have any questions, please contact me at **llayne@bakermanock.com** or (559) 432-5400.

<span id="page-194-1"></span>Sincerely,

amin

Lauren D. Lavne BAKER MANOCK & JENSEN, PC

LDL:JSJ

cc: William Chaltraw, Esq.

<span id="page-194-0"></span><sup>4</sup> 2025 GSP Update, p. 4-45.

# **APPENDIX 2.D. HYDROGEOLOGIC CONCEPTUAL MODEL**

Prepared as part of the **Joint Groundwater Sustainability Plan Madera Subbasin** 

January 2020

**GSP Team:** 

Davids Engineering, Inc Luhdorff & Scalmanini ERA Economics Stillwater Sciences and California State University, Sacramento

Existing Geologic Cross-Sections



X:\2017\17-113 Madera Subbasin GSP Development\GIS\Map Files\REPORT map files\Chapter 2\Appendix 2.D Madera Subbasin CrossSection Location Map.mxd

#### **Luhdorff &**<br>Scalmanini **DAVIDS Consulting Engineers**

## **Existing Geologic Cross-Section Location Map**

*Madera Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan* A2.D-2

**APPENDIX 2.D**



 $2 - 12$ Vertical scale 104 times horizontal scale

 $\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{q},\mathbf{r})$ 

 $rac{1}{\sqrt{\frac{2}{n}}\sqrt{\frac{2}{n}}}$  $\frac{1}{2}$ GraveLand sand Sand Sandy clay, silt, silty sand

EXPLANATION

Clay, silty clay, shale  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$ <br>Volcanic ash

Crystalline bedrock Well log plotted from interpretation of<br>electric log is indicated by vertical<br>line through log; generalized<br>interpretation from electric interpreta<br>log, as fol

> Well-sorted sand and coarse<sup>r</sup> materials

罪 Poorly sorted sand, sand<br>clay, sandy silt, and silt

罪 Clay and silty clay

WATER-LEVEL PROFILES

 $.1952$ 1921 Profile of water table<br>Unconfined or semiconfined<br>water, for year indicated

1952<br>Profile of piezometric surface<br>Confined water, for year indicated

**BLUE** 

Driller's log<br>Color only

468433 O - 59 (In pocket)

 $A2.D-3$ 

# Mitten et al., 1970



GEOMORPHIC AND GEOLOGIC MAPS AND SECTIONS, AND CONTOURS ON BASEMENT COMPLEX, MADERA AREA, SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

 $70 - 229$ 



# Gunner Ranch TM 3 - KDSA, 2006



Root Creek WD - KDSA, 2001



# PLATE 10

# **Root Creek WD - KDSA, 2001**



Table of Aquifer Property Data





2



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#### 2.E. Current and Historical Groundwater Conditions

- 2.E.a. Existing and Historical Groundwater Monitoring Programs/Groundwater Elevation Contour Maps
- 2.E.b. Groundwater Elevation Hydrographs
- 2.E.c. Groundwater Quality Maps

# **APPENDIX 2.E. CURRENT AND HISTORICAL GROUNDWATER CONDITIONS**

**2.E.a. Existing and Historical Groundwater Monitoring Programs/Groundwater Elevation Contour Maps**

> Prepared as part of the **Joint Groundwater Sustainability Plan Madera Subbasin**

> > January 2020

**GSP Team:**

Davids Engineering, Inc Luhdorff & Scalmanini ERA Economics Stillwater Sciences and California State University, Sacramento

Existing and Historical Groundwater Monitoring Programs





**APPENDIX 2.E Existing and Historical Groundwater Level Monitoring Programs**

> *Madera Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan* A2.E.a-2





#### **APPENDIX 2.E Existing and Historical Groundwater Quality Monitoring Programs**

*Madera Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan* A2.E.a-3



#### **APPENDIX 2.E**



**Existing and Historical Land Subsidence Monitoring** 

 $A2.E.a-4$ Madera Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Groundwater Elevation Contour Maps
U.S.GEOLOGICAL SURVEY **GEORGE OTIS SMITH, DIRECTOR** 

WATER-SUPPLY PAPER 398 PLATE I



Base from map prepared by<br>W.C. Mendenhall. Corrected from<br>U.S.G.S.topographic atlas sheets

MAP OF SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY, CALIFORNIA SHOWING ARTESIAN AREAS, GROUND-WATER LEVELS

A2.E.a- $6$ 



Spring 1958, Lines of Equal Elevation of Water in Wells, Unconfined Aquifer

> **Scale of Miles** 4

Disclaimer: Base map created from current USGS 1:24,000 and 1:100,000 maps. Some base map features may not have been present (i.e. roads, canals, reservoirs) for the water year shown.



Spring 1962, Lines of Equal Elevation of Water in Wells, Unconfined Aquifer

> **Scale of Miles** g. А

Disclaimer: Base map created from current USGS 1:24,000 and 1:100,000 maps. Some base map features may not have been present (i.e. roads, canals, reservoirs) for the water year shown.



Spring 1969, Lines of Equal Elevation of Water in Wells, Unconfined Aquifer

> **Scale of Miles** 9. А

Disclaimer: Base map created from current USGS 1:24,000 and 1:100,000 maps. Some base map features may not have been present (i.e. roads, canals, reservoirs) for the water year shown.



Spring 1970, Lines of Equal Elevation of Water in Wells, Unconfined Aquifer

> **Scale of Miles**  $\mathbf{2}$ 4

Disclaimer: Base map created from current USGS 1:24,000 and 1:100,000 maps. Some base map features may not have been present (i.e. roads, canals, reservoirs) for the water year shown.



Spring 1976, Lines of Equal Elevation of Water in Wells, Unconfined Aquifer

> **Scale of Miles** 9  $\boldsymbol{A}$

Disclaimer: Base map created from current USGS 1:24,000 and 1:100,000 maps. Some base map features may not have been present (i.e. roads, canals, reservoirs) for the water year shown.



Spring 1984, Lines of Equal Elevation of Water in Wells, Unconfined Aquifer



Disclaimer: Base map created from current USGS 1:24,000 and 1:100,000 maps. Some base map features may not have been present (i.e. roads, canals, reservoirs) for the water year shown.



Spring 1989, Lines of Equal Elevation of Water in Wells, Unconfined Aquifer



Spring 1990, Lines of Equal Elevation of Water in Wells, Unconfined Aquifer



Spring 1991, Lines of Equal Elevation of Water in Wells, Unconfined Aquifer



Spring 1992, Lines of Equal Elevation of Water in Wells, Unconfined Aquifer



Spring 1993, Lines of Equal Elevation of Water in Wells, Unconfined Aquifer



Spring 1994, Lines of Equal Elevation of Water in Wells, Unconfined Aquifer



Spring 1995, Lines of Equal Elevation of Water in Wells, Unconfined Aquifer



Spring 1996, Lines of Equal Elevation of Water in Wells, Unconfined Aquifer



Spring 1997, Lines of Equal Elevation of Water in Wells, Unconfined Aquifer



Spring 1998, Lines of Equal Elevation of Water in Wells, Unconfined Aquifer



Spring 1999, Lines of Equal Elevation of Water in Wells, Unconfined Aquifer



Spring 2000, Lines of Equal Elevation of Water in Wells, Unconfined Aquifer



Spring 2001, Lines of Equal Elevation of Water in Wells, Unconfined Aquifer



Spring 2002, Lines of Equal Elevation of Water in Wells, Unconfined Aquifer



Spring 2003, Lines of Equal Elevation of Water in Wells, Unconfined Aquifer



Spring 2004, Lines of Equal Elevation of Water in Wells, Unconfined Aquifer



Spring 2005, Lines of Equal Elevation of Water in Wells, Unconfined Aquifer



Spring 2006, Lines of Equal Elevation of Water in Wells, Unconfined Aquifer



Spring 2007, Lines of Equal Elevation of Water in Wells, Unconfined Aquifer



Spring 2008, Lines of Equal Elevation of Water in Wells, Unconfined Aquifer



Spring 2009, Lines of Equal Elevation of Water in Wells, Unconfined Aquifer



Spring 2010, Lines of Equal Elevation of Water in Wells, Unconfined Aquifer



#### **Madera Groundwater Basin 5-22.06**

Groundwater Elevation Contours - Spring 2011

! San Joaquin River Hydrologic Region



Lines of equal elevation of groundwater in feet above mean sea level. Groundwater contours are a generalized representation of static water levels interpreted from wells measured in Spring 2011.

Water levels are interpreted to represent unconfined conditions.





#### **APPENDIX 2.E. CURRENT AND HISTORICAL GROUNDWATER CONDITIONS**

**2.E.b. Groundwater Elevation Hydrographs**

Prepared as part of the **Joint Groundwater Sustainability Plan Madera Subbasin**

January 2020

**GSP Team:**

Davids Engineering, Inc Luhdorff & Scalmanini ERA Economics Stillwater Sciences and California State University, Sacramento

Groundwater Elevation Hydrographs





**APPENDIX 2.E Groundwater Elevation Hydrograph Location Map: State Well Number Locations**

> *Madera Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan* A2.E.b-2



**DAVIDS** Luhdorff & Scalmanini **Consulting Engineers** 

#### **APPENDIX 2.E Groundwater Elevation Hydrograph Location Map: Local Named Wells**

*Madera Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan* A2.E.b-3









































































































































































































































































## **APPENDIX 2.E. CURRENT AND HISTORICAL GROUNDWATER CONDITIONS**

**2.E.c. Groundwater Quality Maps**

Prepared as part of the **Joint Groundwater Sustainability Plan Madera Subbasin**

January 2020

**GSP Team:**

Davids Engineering, Inc Luhdorff & Scalmanini ERA Economics Stillwater Sciences and California State University, Sacramento

## Groundwater Quality Maps



X:\2017\17-113 Madera Subbasin GSP Development\GIS\Map Files\REPORT map files\Chapter 2\Appendix 2.E Madera Subbasin GW Quality Map Boron All Wells.mxd



**APPENDIX 2.E Groundwater Quality Map: Boron Concentrations in All Wells**



X:\2017\17-113 Madera Subbasin GSP Development\GIS\Map Files\REPORT map files\Chapter 2\Appendix 2.E Madera Subbasin GW Quality Map Manganese All Wells.mxd

Luhdorff &<br>Scalmanini **DAVIDS Consulting Engineers** 

**APPENDIX 2.E Groundwater Quality Map: Manganese Concentrations in All Wells**



X:\2017\17-113 Madera Subbasin GSP Development\GIS\Map Files\REPORT map files\Chapter 2\Appendix 2.E Madera Subbasin GW Quality Map Uranium All Wells.mxd



**APPENDIX 2.E Groundwater Quality Map: Uranium Levels in All Wells**



**DAVIDS** 

Luhdorff & Scalmanini **Consulting Engineers** 

## **APPENDIX 2.E Groundwater Quality Map: Chromium-6 (Hexavalent Chromium) Concentrations in All Wells**



X:\2017\17-113 Madera Subbasin GSP Development\GIS\Map Files\REPORT map files\Chapter 2\Appendix 2.E Madera Subbasin GW Quality Map DBCP All Wells.mxd



**APPENDIX 2.E Groundwater Quality Map: DBCP Concentrations in All Wells**



X:\2017\17-113 Madera Subbasin GSP Development\GIS\Map Files\REPORT map files\Chapter 2\Appendix 2.E Madera Subbasin GW Quality Map EDB All Wells.mxd

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**APPENDIX 2.E Groundwater Quality Map: EDB Concentrations in All Wells**



X:\2017\17-113 Madera Subbasin GSP Development\GIS\Map Files\REPORT map files\Chapter 2\Appendix 2.E Madera Subbasin GW Quality Map 123TCP All Wells.mxd

**DAVIDS** Luhdorff & Scalmanini **Consulting Engineers** 

**APPENDIX 2.E Groundwater Quality Map: 1,2,3-Trichloropropane (TCP) Concentrations in All Wells**



**APPENDIX 2.E Groundwater Quality Map: Aldicarb Sulfone Concentrations in All Wells**





X:\2017\17-113 Madera Subbasin GSP Development\GIS\Map Files\REPORT map files\Chapter 2\Appendix 2.E Madera Subbasin GW Quality Map Atrazine All Wells.mxd

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**APPENDIX 2.E Groundwater Quality Map: Atrazine Concentrations in All Wells**



X:\2017\17-113 Madera Subbasin GSP Development\GIS\Map Files\REPORT map files\Chapter 2\Appendix 2.E Madera Subbasin GW Quality Map Diazinon All Wells.mxd

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**APPENDIX 2.E Groundwater Quality Map: Diazinon Concentrations in All Wells**


X:\2017\17-113 Madera Subbasin GSP Development\GIS\Map Files\REPORT map files\Chapter 2\Appendix 2.E Madera Subbasin GW Quality Map Glyphosate All Wells.mxd

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**APPENDIX 2.E Groundwater Quality Map: Glyphosate Concentrations in All Wells**



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**APPENDIX 2.E Groundwater Quality Map: Naphthalene Concentrations in All Wells**



X:\2017\17-113 Madera Subbasin GSP Development\GIS\Map Files\REPORT map files\Chapter 2\Appendix 2.E Madera Subbasin GW Quality Map Simazine All Wells.mxd

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**APPENDIX 2.E Groundwater Quality Map: Simazine Concentrations in All Wells**



X:\2017\17-113 Madera Subbasin GSP Development\GIS\Map Files\REPORT map files\Chapter 2\Appendix 2.E Madera Subbasin GW Quality Map PCE All Wells.mxd

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### **APPENDIX 2.E Groundwater Quality Map: Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) Concentrations in All Wells**



X:\2017\17-113 Madera Subbasin GSP Development\GIS\Map Files\REPORT map files\Chapter 2\Appendix 2.E Madera Subbasin GW Quality Map Perchlorate All Wells.mxd

Luhdorff &<br>Scalmanini **DAVIDS Consulting Engineers** 

**APPENDIX 2.E Groundwater Quality Map: Perchlorate Concentrations in All Wells**



X:\2017\17-113 Madera Subbasin GSP Development\GIS\Map Files\REPORT map files\Chapter 2\Appendix 2.E Madera Subbasin GW Quality Map BTEX All Wells.mxd



**APPENDIX 2.E Map of Groundwater Quality: BTEX (Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenze, Xylene) in All Wells**







**Groundwater Basin: SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY** 













**Groundwater Basin: SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY** 













**Groundwater Basin: SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY** 











**Groundwater Basin: SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY** 









Path: X:\2012 Job Files\12-118\Report\Figures\Final GIS Map Files\Figure 5-4 Nitrate Concentrations in Central Valley Floor Shallow Wells.mxd

LUHDORFF & SCALMANINI<br>CONSULTING ENGINEERS

**Figure 5-4 Nitrate Concentrations in the Central Valley Floor: Shafiow Wells** 



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Figure 5-5 Nitrate Concentrations in the Central Valley Floor >>>>>>> Wells



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**Figure 5-7 TDS Concentrations in the Central Valley Floor: Shallow Wells** 



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**Figure 5-8 TDS Concentrations in the Central Valley Floor: ADeep Wells** 



Path: X:\2012 Job Files\12-118\Report\Figures\Final GIS Map Files\Figure 5-10c Pesticide Exceedances.mxd



!(

!( **Figure 5-10c** Pesticide Detection Or Exceedance By Section

**Figure 5-12 Select Graphs of Nitrate Concentrations in the Central Valley Floor: Deep Wells**



Path: X:\2012 Job Files\12-118\Report\Figures\Final GIS Map Files\Figure 5-12 Select Graphs of Nitrate Concentrations in Central Valley Floor Deep Wells.mxd





**Figure 5-23a** A2.E.c-28**Other Groundwater Quality Data: Arsenic**

# LUHDORFF & SCALMANINI<br>CONSULTING ENGINEERS



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 $\circ$ 



#### **USGS GAMA vanadium**

- $\bigcirc$  Low (< 25 micrograms per liter)
- $\bigcirc$  Moderate (25 50 micrograms per liter)
- $\bigcirc$  High (> 50 micrograms per liter)

#### **CDPH** vanadium

- Low (< 25 micrograms per liter)  $\circ$
- O Moderate (25 - 50 micrograms per liter)
- High (> 50 micrograms per liter)  $\circ$





# Eiguge 5-23b **Other Groundwater Quality Data: Vanadium**



### **USGS GAMA uranium**

- O Low (< 15 micrograms per liter)
- Moderate (15 30 micrograms per liter) O
- High (> 30 micrograms per liter)  $\bullet$

#### **CDPH** uranium

- Low (< 15 micrograms per liter)  $\circ$
- O Moderate (15 - 30 micrograms per liter)
- High (> 30 micrograms per liter)  $\circ$





# AFigure 5-23c **Other Groundwater Quality Data: Uranium**



#### **USGS GAMA DBCP**

- $O$  Not detected (< 0.03 micrograms per liter)
- О Moderate (0.03 - 0.20 micrograms per liter)

#### **CDPH DBCP**

- $\circ$ Low or not detected (< 0.01 micrograms per liter)
- Low (0.01 0.02 micrograms per  $\circ$ liter)
- Moderate (0.03 0.20 micro- $\circ$ grams per liter)
- High (> 0.20 micrograms per liter)  $\circ$



Fumigants include: 1,2-dibromo-3-chloropropane (DBCP)<br>1,2-dibromoethane (EDB) 1,2,3-trichloropropane (1,2,3-TCP)

1,2-dichloropropane (1,2-DCP)







# Eigure 5-23d **Other Groundwater Quality Data: DBCP/Fumigants**



### **USGS GAMA herbicides**

### O Not detected

 $O$  Low (< 0.01 - 0.10 micrograms per liter)

#### **CDPH** herbicides

Not high (< 0.1 micrograms  $\circ$ per liter)





# AFigure 5-23e **Other Groundwater Quality Data: Herbicides**



### **USGS GAMA solvents**

- O Not detected
- $O$  Low  $( $0.1$ )$
- O Moderate  $(> 0.1 - 1.0)$

### **CDPH** solvents

- Low or not detected  $( $0.1$ )$  $\circ$
- Moderate  $(0.1 1.0)$ O
- $High (> 1.0)$  $\overline{O}$

Solvents include: tetrachloroethylene (PCE) carbon tetrachloride trichloroethylene (TCE) dichloromethane dibromomethane cis-1,2-dichloroethene n-propylbenzene





# AFigure 5-23f **Other Groundwater Quality Data: Solvents**



### **USGS GAMA perchlorate**

- $O$  Not detected  $\langle$  < 0.5 micrograms per liter)
- $\bullet$  Low (0.5 0.6 micrograms per liter)
- $\bullet$  Moderate (0.6 1.5 micrograms per liter)

#### **CDPH** perchlorate

Not detected (< 4.0 micrograms  $\circ$ per liter)





## **Figure 5-23g Other Groundwater Quality Data: Perchlorate**

5





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APPENDIX



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APPENDIX





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APPENDIX







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**California** State Univ-Fre

APPENDIX

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State Univ-Fre



Note: Nitrate is generally introduced into groundwater by septic systems, fertilizers, or high density animal enclosures.

For public drinking water systems, the primary (health-based) maximum contaminant level for nitrate as NO<sub>3</sub> is 45 milligrams/liter (mg/L). At concentrations exceeding the oxygen. This effect can be especially pronounced in infants,





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# **APPENDIX 2.F. WATER BUDGET INFORMATION**

Prepared as part of the **Joint Groundwater Sustainability Plan Madera Subbasin**

January 2020

**GSP Team:** Davids Engineering, Inc Luhdorff & Scalmanini ERA Economics Stillwater Sciences and California State University, Sacramento

### 2.F. Water Budget Information

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- 2.F.b. Surface Water System Water Budget: Madera County GSA
- 2.F.c. Surface Water System Water Budget: Madera Irrigation District GSA
- 2.F.d. Surface Water System Water Budget: Madera Water District GSA
- 2.F.e. Surface Water System Water Budget: Gravelly Ford Water District GSA
- 2.F.f. Surface Water System Water Budget: New Stone Water District GSA
- 2.F.g. Surface Water System Water Budget: Root Creek Water District GSA
- 2.F.h. Daily Reference Evapotranspiration and Precipitation Quality Control
- 2.F.i. Development of Daily Time Step IDC Root Zone Water Budget Model

# **APPENDIX 2.F. WATER BUDGET INFORMATION**

# **2.F.a. Surface Water System Water Budget: City of Madera GSA**

Prepared as part of the **Joint Groundwater Sustainability Plan Madera Subbasin**

January 2020

**GSP Team:**

Davids Engineering, Inc Luhdorff & Scalmanini ERA Economics Stillwater Sciences and California State University, Sacramento

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#### <span id="page-443-0"></span>**INTRODUCTION** 1

To ensure sustainable groundwater management throughout California's groundwater basins, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA) requires Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to prepare and adopt Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) with strategies to achieve subbasin groundwater sustainability within 20 years of plan adoption. Integral to each GSP is a water budget used to quantify the subbasin's groundwater overdraft (if applicable) and sustainable yield.

In 2017, City of Madera (CM) GSA formed to manage approximately 10,000 acres of the Madera Subbasin. This document presents results of the surface water system (SWS) water budgets developed for historical and current land use conditions in CM GSA. The CM GSA water budgets were integrated with separate water budgets developed for the other six (6) GSAs in Madera Subbasin to prepare a boundary water budget for the Madera Subbasin SWS. Results of the subbasin boundary water budget are reported in the Madera Subbasin GSP Section 2.2.3 and were integrated with a subbasin groundwater model (GSP Appendix 6.D) to estimate subbasin sustainable yield (GSP Section 2.2.3).

#### <span id="page-443-1"></span>**WATER BUDGET CONCEPTUAL MODEL**  $\mathbf{2}$

A water budget is defined as a complete accounting of all water flowing into and out of a defined volume (e.g., a subbasin or a GSA) over a specified period of time. The conceptual model (or structure) of the CM GSA water budget developed for this investigation is consistent with the GSP Regulations defined under Title 23 of California Code of Regulations<sup>[1](#page-443-2)</sup> (CCR) and adheres to sound water budget principles and practices defined by California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in the Water Budget Best Management Practice (BMP) guidelines (DWR, 2016).

The lateral extent of CM GSA is defined by the boundaries indicated in Figure A2.F.a-1. The vertical extent of CM GSA are the land surface (top) and the base of fresh water at the bottom of the basin (bottom), as described in the hydrogeologic conceptual model (HCM) developed in GSP Section 2.2.1. The vertical extent of Madera Subbasin and its GSAs is subdivided into a surface water system (SWS) and the underlying groundwater system (GWS), with separate but related water budgets prepared for each that together represent the overall subbasin water budget.

A conceptual representation of the CM GSA water budget is represented in Figure A2.F.a-2. This document details only the SWS portion of the CM GSA water budget. The SWS is divided into two primary accounting centers: the Land Surface System and the Rivers and Streams System. The Land Surface System is further divided into three accounting centers representing CM GSA's water use sectors: Agricultural Land, Native Vegetation Land, and Urban Land (urban, industrial, and semi-agricultural).

Water budget components, or directional flow of water between accounting centers and across the SWS boundary, are indicated by arrows. Inflows and outflows were calculated using measurements and other historical data or were calculated as the water budget closure term – the difference between all other estimated or measured inflows and outflows from each accounting center or water use sector (bold arrows).

<span id="page-443-2"></span><sup>1</sup> California Code of Regulations Title 23. Waters, Division 2. Department of Water Resources, Chapter 1.5. Groundwater Management, Subchapter 2. Groundwater Sustainability Plans.







**Figure A2.F.a-2. City of Madera GSA Water Budget Structure.**

Inflows to the SWS include precipitation, surface water inflows (in various canals and streams), and groundwater extraction. Outflows from the SWS include evapotranspiration (ET), surface water outflows (in various canals and streams), and infiltration to the groundwater system (seepage and deep percolation). Also represented in Figure A2.F.a-2 are inflows and outflows from the GWS, which are discussed and quantified at the subbasin level in the GWS water budget in GSP Section 2.2.3. Subsurface GWS inflows and outflows are not quantified on the water budget subregion scale.

Inflows and outflows were quantified following the process described in GSP Section 2.2.3 on a monthly time step for water years in the historical water budget base period (1989-2014 hydrologic and land use conditions), the current water budget (2015 land use using 1989-2014 average hydrologic conditions), and projected water budget. Four projected water budgets were prepared for the years 2019 through 2090 based on 1965 through 2015 hydrologic conditions:

- 1. Historical hydrologic conditions
	- a. Without projects and management actions, and
	- b. With projects and management actions
- 2. Historical hydrologic conditions adjusted for anticipated climate change per DWR-provided 2030 climate change factors
	- a. Without projects and management actions, and
	- b. With projects and management actions.

# <span id="page-446-0"></span>**WATER BUDGET ANALYSIS**

The historical water budget and current land use water budget for CM GSA are presented below following a summary of land use data relevant to water budget development. Land use data is provided for the 1989-2014 historical water budget period and for 2015, the land use period used for current water budget development.

## <span id="page-446-1"></span>**Land Use**

Land use estimates for 1989-2015 corresponding to water use sectors are summarized in Figure A2.F.a-3 and Table A2.F.a-1 for CM GSA. According to GSP Regulations (23 CCR § 351(al)):

*"Water use sector" refers to categories of water demand based on the general land uses to which the water is applied, including urban, industrial, agricultural, managed wetlands, managed recharge, and native vegetation.*

In CM GSA, water use sectors include agricultural, native vegetation, and urban land use. The urban land use category includes urban and semi-agricultural<sup>[2](#page-446-2)</sup> lands as well as industrial land, which covers only a small area in the subbasin.

Urban lands in CM GSA gradually expanded between 1989 and 2014, from approximately 5,700 acres to 8,000 acres. This expansion was only interrupted by a slight decline in urban lands in the late 1990s and early 2000s, which may be attributed to changes in DWR's delineation of urban lands. Besides a slight increase in native vegetation coinciding with this drop in urban lands, native vegetation has remained

<span id="page-446-2"></span> $2$  As defined in the DWR county land use surveys, semi-agricultural land use subclasses include farmsteads, livestock feed lot operations, dairies, poultry farms, and miscellaneous semi-agricultural land use incidental to agriculture (small roads, ditches, non-planted areas of cropped fields (DWR, 2009).

relatively constant over time, averaging approximately 1,000 acres between 1989 and 2014. Over the same period agricultural lands decreased from 3,400 acres to just 1,600 acres.



**Figure A2.F.a-3. City of Madera GSA Land Use Areas.**







<sup>1</sup> Area includes land classified as native vegetation and water surfaces.

<sup>2</sup> Area includes land classified as urban, industrial, and semi-agricultural.

Agricultural land uses are further detailed in Figure A2.F.a-4 and Table A2.F.a-2. Historically, grapes have been the predominant crop within CM GSA, though in recent years orchard crops have notably increased.



**Figure A2.F.a-4. City of Madera GSA Agricultural Land Use Areas.**

<b>Water Year</b>	<b>Citrus and</b>		<b>Grain and</b>			Misc. Field	<b>Misc. Truck</b>		<b>Pasture and</b>	
(Type)	<b>Subtropical</b>	Corn	<b>Hay Crops</b>	<b>Grapes</b>	Idle	<b>Crops</b>	<b>Crops</b>	Orchard	<b>Alfalfa</b>	<b>Total</b>
1989 (C)	14	234	291	722	1,205	386	0	42	500	3,392
1990 (C)	15	201	398	734	1,005	419	0	47	512	3,331
1991 (C)	$\overline{17}$	184	280	761	858	478		52	628	3,260
1992 (C)	$\overline{17}$	200	345	805	703	465	9	51	614	3,208
1993 (W)	18	207	340	831	720	472	20	51	491	3,150
1994 (C)	$\overline{19}$	193	312	889	727	447	67	53	387	3,092
1995 (W)	$\overline{17}$	203	722	913	443	437	$\mathbf{0}$	69	234	3,038
1996 (W)	$\overline{27}$	251	371	1,010	223	610	33	79	324	2,928
1997 (W)	$\overline{39}$	156	344	,082	295	379	54	99	369	2,817
1998 (W)	17	172	182	,037	483	324	24	116	351	2,707
1999 (AN)	$\overline{7}$	161	70	,201	345	280	10	135	388	2,597
2000 (AN)	25	142	189	,251	6	291	$\overline{2}$	157	423	2,487
2001 (D)	18	106	237	,040	$\mathbf 0$	343	$\overline{2}$	174	456	2,376
2002 (D)	23	115	179	1,156	28	218	4	177	413	2,314
2003 (BN)	$\overline{16}$	102	166	1,118	$\overline{74}$	213	6	187	370	2,251
2004 (D)	$\overline{14}$	85	193	,048	85	228	$\overline{14}$	193	$\overline{327}$	2,189
2005 (W)	$\overline{15}$	71	268	965	127	188	10	198	285	2,126
2006 (W)	$\overline{13}$	65	280	888	219	129	22	205	242	2,063
2007 (C)	$\overline{13}$	69	263	878	256	82	26	215	199	2,001
2008 (C)	11	62	350	885	238	19	3	214	156	1,938
2009 (BN)	9	$\overline{22}$	336	788	379	$\overline{2}$	$6\phantom{1}$	221	113	1,876
2010 (AN)	9	13	499	733	204	23	$\overline{7}$	255	71	1,813
2011 (W)	$\overline{13}$	$\mathbf 0$	536	654	177	$\overline{34}$	$\overline{7}$	303	28	1,751
2012 (D)	$\overline{7}$	8	501	621	167	15	6	348	33	1,706
2013 (C)	6	10	461	588	163	3	6	400	25	,661
2014 (C)	13	0	399	555	137	3	$\overline{2}$	487	21	1,617
2015 (C)	$\overline{7}$	0	398	549	60	0	11	535	25	1,584
Average 1989-2014)	16	117	327	890	356	249	13	174	306	2,450

*Table A2.F.a-2. City of Madera GSA Agricultural Land Use Areas (Acres).*

## <span id="page-450-0"></span>**Surface Water System Water Budget**

This section presents surface water system water budget components within CM GSA as per GSP regulations. These are followed by a summary of the water budget results by accounting center.

### <span id="page-450-1"></span>3.2.1 Inflows

#### <span id="page-450-2"></span>3.2.1.1 Surface Water Inflow by Water Source Type

Surface water inflows include surface water flowing into the basin across the basin boundary. Per the Regulations, surface inflows must be reported by water source type. According to the Regulations:

*"Water source type" represents the source from which water is derived to meet the applied beneficial uses, including groundwater, recycled water, reused water, and surface water sources identified as Central Valley Project, the State Water Project, the Colorado River Project, local supplies, and local imported supplies.*

Additionally, runoff of precipitation from upgradient areas adjacent to the subregion represents a potential source of surface water inflow.

#### *Local Supplies*

Primary surface water inflows to CM GSA include local supplies along Fresno River that flow into and out of City of Madera. Some water along Fresno River is diverted by water rights users in the subbasin.

#### *Local Imported Supplies*

CM GSA does not receive local imported supplies for irrigation purposes.

#### *CVP Supplies*

CM GSA does not receive CVP supplies for irrigation purposes.

#### *Recycling and Reuse*

Recycling and reuse are not a significant source of supply within CM GSA.

#### *Other Surface Inflows*

For the water budgets presented herein, precipitation runoff from outside the subregion is considered relatively minimal and is expected to pass through the waterways accounted above following relatively large storm events. Precipitation runoff from lands inside the subregion is internal to the surface water system and is thus not considered as surface inflows to the subregion boundary.

#### *Summary of Surface Inflows*

Surface water inflows in the Fresno River are summarized by water year type in Figure A2.F.a-5 and Table A2.F.a-3. The City of Madera does not have water rights to Fresno River water, thus, what doesn't seep or evaporate from the River as it traverses the City of Madera becomes an outflow from the GSA. During the study period, surface water supplies vary greatly with water year type, with substantial local supply inflows during wet years that are reduced during all other years. Total surface water inflows range from less than 6 thousand acre-feet (taf) during dry and critical years to 116 taf during wet years.



**Figure A2.F.a-5. City of Madera GSA Surface Water Inflows by Water Source Type.**

<b>Water Year (Type)</b>	<b>Local Supply</b>	CVP Supply <sup>1</sup>	<b>Other Surface Inflows</b>	<b>Total</b>
1989 (C)	0	0	0	0
1990 (C)	0	0	0	$\mathbf{0}$
1991 (C)	0	0	0	$\mathbf 0$
1992 (C)	0	0	0	0
1993 (W)	124,660	0	0	124,660
1994 (C)	2,520	0	0	2,520
1995 (W)	115,059	0	0	115,059
1996 (W)	75,230	0	0	75,230
1997 (W)	195,455	0	0	195,455
1998 (W)	134,172	0	0	134,172
1999 (AN)	26,759	0	0	26,759
2000 (AN)	42,375	0	0	42,375
2001 (D)	1,514	0	0	1,514
2002 (D)	0	0	0	0
2003 (BN)	0	0	0	0
2004 (D)	0	0	0	0
2005 (W)	39,960	0	0	39,960
2006 (W)	106,267	0	0	106,267
2007 (C)	39,896	0	0	39,896
2008 (C)	0	0	0	0

*Table A2.F.a-3. City of Madera GSA Surface Water Inflows by Water Source Type (Acre-Feet).*



1CVP Supply is considered as all water supply released from CVP storage facilities. The volume of CVP Supply includes CVP deliveries to CVP contractors/water users, and flood releases from CVP facilities that largely pass through the subbasin.

### <span id="page-452-0"></span>3.2.1.2 Precipitation

Precipitation estimates for the CM GSA are provided in Figure A2.F.a-6 and Table A2.F.a-4. Precipitation estimates are reported by water use sector.

Total precipitation is variable between years in the study area, ranging from approximately 7 taf (8.6 inches) during critical years to 12 taf (14.4 inches) during wet years.



**Figure A2.F.a-6. City of Madera GSA Precipitation by Water Use Sector.**





### <span id="page-453-0"></span>3.2.1.3 Groundwater Extraction by Water Use Sector

Estimates of groundwater extraction by water use sector are provided in Figure A2.F.a-7 and Table A2.F.a-5. For agricultural and urban (urban, semi-agricultural, industrial) lands, groundwater extraction represents pumping, while for native lands, groundwater extraction by riparian vegetation was considered to be negligible. For the urban lands water budget, measured groundwater pumping volumes from CM SCADA records were available for 2013-2015 and were found to be reasonably similar to the groundwater extraction water budget closure term. Groundwater extraction varies between years depending on surface water supplies and crop water demands or urban land consumptive use requirements. However, between 1989 and 2014 groundwater extraction was, on average, similar across agricultural and urban lands, averaging approximately 5 taf per year.



**Figure A2.F.a-7. City of Madera GSA Groundwater Extraction by Water Use Sector.**







### <span id="page-455-0"></span>3.2.1.4 Groundwater Discharge to Surface Water Sources

The depth to groundwater is greater than 100-200 ft across much of the Madera Subbasin. Given the depth to the water table in the Madera Subbasin, groundwater discharge to surface water sources is negligible.

### <span id="page-455-1"></span>3.2.2 Outflows

#### <span id="page-455-2"></span>3.2.2.1 Evapotranspiration by Water Use Sector

Evapotranspiration (ET) by water use sector is reported in Figures A2.F.a-8 to A2.F.a-10 and Tables A2.F.a-6 to A2.F.a-8. First, total ET is reported, followed by ET from applied water and ET from precipitation.

Total ET varies between years but has remained relatively steady over time, ranging from a low of approximately 12 taf in 2012 to a high of 15 taf in 1992. As agricultural area has decreased and urban land has increased over time, ET has similarly decreased and increased for each respective water use sector.



**Figure A2.F.a-8. City of Madera GSA Evapotranspiration by Water Use Sector.**







**Figure A2.F.a-9. City of Madera GSA Evapotranspiration of Applied Water by Water Use Sector.**

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<b>Water Year (Type)</b>	<b>Agricultural</b>	<b>Native Vegetation</b>	<b>Urban</b>	<b>Total</b>			
1989 (C)	3,821	0	3,012	6,833			
1990 (C)	4,082	$\mathbf 0$	3,190	7,272			
1991 (C)	4,322	$\mathbf 0$	2,965	7,287			
1992 (C)	5,017	$\mathbf{0}$	3,762	8,779			
1993 (W)	4,167	$\mathbf 0$	3,199	7,366			
1994 (C)	4,514	$\mathbf{0}$	3,845	8,359			
1995 (W)	3,368	$\mathbf{0}$	2,325	5,693			
1996 (W)	4,755	$\mathbf{0}$	2,644	7,399			
1997 (W)	4,777	$\pmb{0}$	3,737	8,514			
1998 (W)	3,335	$\pmb{0}$	2,766	6,101			
1999 (AN)	4,233	$\mathbf{0}$	3,289	7,522			
2000 (AN)	4,489	$\pmb{0}$	3,534	8,023			
2001 (D)	4,365	$\mathbf{0}$	3,086	7,451			
2002 (D)	4,446	$\pmb{0}$	3,923	8,369			
2003 (BN)	4,231	$\pmb{0}$	4,211	8,442			
2004 (D)	4,607	$\pmb{0}$	5,128	9,735			
2005 (W)	3,394	$\mathbf{0}$	3,624	7,018			
2006 (W)	3,191	$\pmb{0}$	3,478	6,669			
2007 (C)	3,597	$\mathbf{0}$	4,584	8,181			
2008 (C)	3,401	$\pmb{0}$	5,258	8,659			
2009 (BN)	2,980	$\mathbf{0}$	5,471	8,451			
2010 (AN)	2,447	$\pmb{0}$	3,581	6,028			
2011 (W)	2,413	$\pmb{0}$	3,357	5,770			
2012 (D)	3,092	$\pmb{0}$	4,718	7,810			

*Table A2.F.a-7. City of Madera GSA Evapotranspiration of Applied Water by Water Use Sector (Acre-Feet).*





**Figure A2.F.a-10. City of Madera GSA Evapotranspiration of Precipitation by Water Use Sector.**

(Acre-Feet).						
<b>Water Year (Type)</b>	<b>Agricultural</b>	<b>Native Vegetation</b>	<b>Urban</b>	<b>Total</b>		
1989 (C)	2,043	795	3,488	6,326		
1990 (C)	2,051	770	3,668	6,489		
1991 (C)	1,590	662	3,100	5,352		
1992 (C)	1,727	728	3,747	6,202		
1993 (W)	2,213	792	4,102	7,107		
1994 (C)	1,618	614	3,372	5,604		
1995 (W)	2,402	848	4,391	7,641		
1996 (W)	1,931	893	4,471	7,295		
1997 (W)	1,530	847	3,786	6,163		
1998 (W)	1,941	1,054	3,728	6,723		
1999 (AN)	1,160	900	3,141	5,201		
2000 (AN)	1,402	1,164	3,331	5,897		
2001 (D)	1,339	1,369	3,584	6,292		

*Table A2.F.a-8. City of Madera GSA Evapotranspiration of Precipitation by Water Use Sector* 



In addition to ET from land surfaces, estimates of evaporation from rivers and streams are reported in Figure A2.F.a-11 and Table A2.F.a-9. Evaporation from the Rivers and Streams System includes evaporation of both surface inflows and of precipitation runoff within local sloughs and depressions. Evaporation is highest in wet years when surface water inflows are typically higher, averaging approximately 0.9 taf per wet year.



**Figure A2.F.a-11. City of Madera GSA Evaporation from the Surface Water System.**



*Table A2.F.a-9. City of Madera GSA Evaporation from the Surface Water System (Acre-Feet).*

<sup>1</sup> Includes evaporation of surface inflows and of precipitation runoff.

### <span id="page-460-0"></span>3.2.2.2 Surface Water Outflow by Water Source Type

Surface water outflows by water source type are summarized in Figure A2.F.a-12 and Table A2.F.a-10. In CM GSA, runoff of applied water is assumed negligible and runoff of precipitation is collected in waterways within CM GSA, reentering the groundwater system through infiltration except during the largest storm events. Thus, surface outflows primarily from local supplies along Fresno River are expected to leave the subregion. These outflows are significantly higher in wet years, averaging approximately 112 taf during wet years and less than 5 taf during dry and critical years.



**■Local Supplies** 

**Figure A2.F.a-12. City of Madera GSA Surface Outflows by Water Source Type.**

<b>Water Year (Type)</b>	<b>Local Supplies</b>	<b>CVP Supplies</b>	<b>Total</b>
1989 (C)	0	0	$\mathbf{0}$
1990 (C)	0	0	$\mathbf 0$
1991 (C)	0	0	$\mathbf 0$
1992 (C)	0	0	$\mathbf 0$
1993 (W)	119,286	0	119,286
1994 (C)	1,334	0	1,334
1995 (W)	109,676	0	109,676
1996 (W)	69,695	0	69,695
1997 (W)	193,339	0	193,339
1998 (W)	128,982	0	128,982
1999 (AN)	24,801	0	24,801
2000 (AN)	40,412	0	40,412
2001 (D)	975	0	975
2002 (D)	0	0	0
2003 (BN)	0	0	$\mathbf{0}$
2004 (D)	0	0	$\mathbf 0$
2005 (W)	36,774	0	36,774
2006 (W)	101,319	0	101,319
2007 (C)	38,159	0	38,159
2008 (C)	0	0	0
2009 (BN)	0	0	0
2010 (AN)	21,412	0	21,412
2011 (W)	133,723	0	133,723

*Table A2.F.a-10. City of Madera GSA Surface Outflows by Water Source Type (Acre-Feet).*



### <span id="page-462-0"></span>3.2.2.3 Infiltration of Precipitation

Estimated infiltration of precipitation (deep percolation of precipitation) by water use sector is provided in Figure A2.F.a-13 and Table A2.F.a-11. Infiltration of precipitation to the groundwater system is highly variable from year to year due to variation in the timing and amount of precipitation, ranging from over 4 taf on average during wet years to less than 2 taf annually during other year types.



**Figure A2.F.a-13. City of Madera GSA Infiltration of Precipitation by Water Use Sector.**



## *Table A2.F.a-11. City of Madera GSA Infiltration of Precipitation by Water Use Sector (Acre-*

### <span id="page-463-0"></span>3.2.2.4 Infiltration of Surface Water

Estimated infiltration of surface water (seepage) by source is provided in Figure A2.F.a-14 and Table A2.F.a-12. Seepage from the Rivers and Streams System includes seepage of both surface inflows and of precipitation runoff into local sloughs and depressions. Seepage from rivers and streams exhibits substantial variability over time, similar to the annual variability of surface water inflows.



**Figure A2.F.a-14. City of Madera GSA Infiltration of Surface Water.**







<sup>1</sup> Includes infiltration of surface inflows and of precipitation runoff.

### <span id="page-465-0"></span>3.2.2.5 Infiltration of Applied Water

Estimated infiltration of applied water (deep percolation of applied water) by water use sector is provided in Figure A2.F.a-15 and Table A2.F.a-13. Prior to the mid-2000s, infiltration of applied water was dominated by agricultural irrigation, which provided an average of approximately 1.9 taf per year to the groundwater system between 1989 and 2005. Since 2005, infiltration of applied water on urban lands has exceeded agricultural lands, averaging 1.5 taf per year between 2005 and 2014.



**Figure A2.F.a-15. City of Madera GSA Infiltration of Applied Water by Water Use Sector.**



# *Table A2.F.a-13. City of Madera GSA Infiltration of Applied Water by Water Use Sector (Acre-*

### <span id="page-466-0"></span>3.2.3 Change in Surface Water System Storage

Estimates of change in SWS storage are provided in Figure A2.F.a-16 and Table A2.F.a-14. Inter-annual changes in storage within the surface water system consist primarily of root zone soil moisture storage changes, are relatively small, and tend to average near zero over many years.





*Table A2.F.a-14. City of Madera GSA Change in Surface Water System Storage (Acre-Feet).*




# **Historical Water Budget Summary**

Annual inflows, outflows, and change in SWS storage during the historical water budget period (1989- 2014) are summarized in Figure A2.F.a-17 and Table A2.F.a-15. Inflows are shown as positive values, while outflows and change in SWS storage are shown as negative values. Review of the variability in component volumes across years provides insight into the impacts of hydrology on the surface water system water budget.



**Figure A2.F.a-17. City of Madera GSA Surface Water System Historical Water Budget, 1989-2014.**

	<b>Boundary</b>	Groundwater	Precipitation	Evapo-	Infil. of	Infil. of	Infil. of	<b>Boundary</b>	Change in
	<b>Surface</b>	<b>Extraction</b>		transpiration <sup>1</sup>	Precipitation	<b>Surface</b>	<b>Applied</b>	<b>Surface</b>	<b>SWS</b>
<b>Water Year (Type)</b>	<b>Inflows</b>					<b>Water</b>	<b>Water</b>	<b>Outflows</b>	<b>Storage</b>
1989 (C)	0	9,982	10,073	$-13,192$	$-2,977$	$-628$	$-3,167$	10 <sup>1</sup>	$-101$
1990 (C)	0	10,733	9,393	$-13,802$	$-2,542$	$-776$	$-3,121$	9	106
1991 (C)	0	10,929	9,810	$-12,693$	$-3,695$	$-1,026$	$-3,347$	9	13
1992 (C)	0	12,933	8,018	$-15,012$	$-2,031$	$-581$	$-3,360$	$\overline{4}$	29
1993 (W)	124,660	10,858	13,584	$-15,673$	$-4,887$	$-5,392$	$-3,801$	$-119,286$	$-63$
1994 (C)	2,520	11,774	7,698	$-14,109$	$-1,922$	$-1,390$	$-3,181$	$-1,334$	$-55$
1995 (W)	115,059	8,013	16,524	$-14,401$	$-6,213$	$-6,061$	$-3,237$	$-109,676$	$-9$
1996 (W)	75,230	11,228	10,097	$-15,675$	$-3,193$	$-5,127$	$-2,996$	$-69,695$	131
1997 (W)	195,455	13,822	11,541	$-14,926$	$-5,169$	$-3,101$	$-4,416$	$-193,339$	133
1998 (W)	134,172	8,523	13,874	$-13,871$	$-5,206$	$-4,994$	$-3,212$	$-128,982$	$-303$
1999 (AN)	26,759	10,815	5,625	$-12,917$	$-1,400$	$-1,800$	$-2,578$	$-24,801$	296
2000 (AN)	42,375	11,026	9,172	$-14,326$	$-2,411$	$-2,228$	$-3,017$	$-40,412$	$-179$
2001 (D)	1,514	10,449	8,555	$-13,805$	$-2,034$	$-858$	$-2,880$	$-975$	34
2002 (D)	0	11,727	7,765	$-14,296$	$-1,931$	$-334$	$-3,070$	8	131
2003 (BN)	0	11,173	6,822	$-13,608$	$-1,496$	$-145$	$-2,740$	4	$-10$
2004 (D)	0	13,284	5,668	$-14,895$	$-1,124$	$-89$	$-2,879$		34
2005 (W)	39,960	9,178	9,779	$-13,880$	$-2,304$	$-2,924$	$-2,913$	$-36,774$	$-122$
2006 (W)	106,267	8,828	10,769	$-14,219$	$-3,088$	$-4,742$	$-2,418$	$-101,319$	$-78$
2007 (C)	39,896	11,733	4,360	$-13,007$	$-959$	$-1,640$	$-2,374$	$-38,159$	150
2008 (C)	0	11,504	6,630	$-13,737$	$-1,443$	$-361$	$-2,658$	0	65
2009 (BN)	0	10,653	5,988	$-13,067$	$-1,090$	$-109$	$-2,311$	$\overline{2}$	$-66$
2010 (AN)	25,241	7,429	10,282	$-13,245$	$-2,826$	$-3,170$	$-2,245$	$-21,412$	$-53$
2011 (W)	139,506	7,970	10,763	$-13,585$	$-3,223$	$-5,389$	$-2,374$	$-133,723$	55
2012 (D)	365	11,482	3,664	$-11,709$	$-1,034$	$-402$	$-2,403$	$\overline{2}$	35
2013 (C)	6,222	11,822	6,189	$-13,793$	$-1,544$	$-1,219$	$-2,876$	$-4,821$	20
2014 (C)	0	11,698	3,024	$-11,748$	$-636$	$-34$	$-2,352$	0	48
Average (1989-2014)	41,354	10,753	8,680	$-13,815$	$-2,553$	$-2,097$	$-2,920$	$-39,410$	9
Average (1989-2014) W	116,289	9,803	12,116	$-14,529$	$-4,160$	$-4,716$	$-3,171$	$-111,599$	$-32$
Average (1989-2014) AN	31,458	9,757	8,360	$-13,496$	$-2,212$	$-2,399$	$-2,613$	$-28,875$	21
Average (1989-2014) BN	0	10,913	6,405	$-13,337$	$-1,293$	$-127$	$-2,526$	3	$-38$
Average (1989-2014) D	470	11,736	6,413	$-13,676$	$-1,531$	$-421$	$-2,808$	$-241$	59
Average (1989-2014) C	5,404	11,456	7,244	$-13,455$	$-1,972$	$-851$	$-2,937$	$-4,920$	31

*Table A2.F.a-15. City of Madera GSA Surface Water System Historical Water Budget, 1989-2014 (Acre-Feet).*

<sup>1</sup>Includes ET of applied water, ET of precipitation, and evaporation from rivers and streams.

#### $3.4$ **Current Water Budget Summary**

The current water budget was developed following a similar process to the historical water budget using the 2015 land use in Table A2.F.a-1 and the same 1989-2014 average hydrologic conditions of the historical base period, including surface water flows, precipitation, and weather parameters. This allowed quantification of groundwater inflows and outflows for current consumptive use in the context of average water supply conditions.

Annual inflows, outflows, and change in SWS storage from the current water budget are summarized in Figure A2.F.a-18 and Table A2.F.a-16. Inflows are shown as positive values, while outflows and change in SWS storage are shown as negative values.



**Figure A2.F.a-18. City of Madera GSA Surface Water System Current Water Budget, 1989-2014.**



### *Table A2.F.a-16. City of Madera GSA Surface Water System Current Water Budget, 1989-2014 (Acre-Feet).*

<sup>1</sup>Includes ET of applied water, ET of precipitation, and evaporation from rivers and streams.

# **Net Recharge from SWS**

Overdraft is defined in DWR Bulletin 118 as "the condition of a groundwater basin or subbasin in which the amount of water withdrawn by pumping exceeds the amount of water that recharges the basin over a period of years, during which the water supply conditions approximate average conditions" (DWR 2003). The Madera Subbasin water budget indicates that overdraft conditions occurred during the 1989-2014 historical base period. Per 23 CCR Section 354.18(b)(5), the subbasin overdraft has been quantified for this base period. The evaluation of overdraft conditions includes estimates of recharge from subsurface flows. However, estimates of recharge from subsurface flows are less accurate when estimated for areas less than an entire subbasin. Thus, for estimates of GSA level contribution to overdraft, the term net recharge from the SWS, is defined as groundwater recharge minus groundwater extraction. Net recharge from the SWS is useful for understanding and analyzing the combined effects of land surface processes on the underlying GWS.

When calculated from the historical water budget, average net recharge from the SWS represents the average recharge (when positive) or shortage of recharge (when negative) based on historical cropping, land use practices, and average hydrologic conditions. When calculated from the current land use water budget, average net recharge represents the average recharge or shortage (negative net recharge) based on current cropping, land use practices, and average hydrologic conditions.

Average net recharge from the SWS is presented below for the CM GSA portion of the Madera Subbasin. Table 17 shows the average net recharge from the SWS for 1989-2014 based on the historical water budget, and Table 18 shows the same for the current water budget. Under both historical and current land use conditions, average annual net recharge from CM GSA is approximately -3 taf, indicating that groundwater extraction exceeds recharge from the surface water system.

The Madera County (MC) GSA recognizes that groundwater users within its boundaries want to understand potential future limitations on groundwater resources available to meet their beneficial uses. As shown in both Table A2.F.a-17 and Table A2.F.a-18, average values for infiltration of precipitation and infiltration of surface water are provided (columns "b" and "c"). The slight variation between the tables reflects the modified land use conditions. Together, these values represent the sustainable native groundwater for the MC GSA, a value of about 90,000 acre-feet per year.

While the MC GSA has not determined whether an allocation approach, or other methods, will best allow the MC GSA to achieve needed reductions in the consumptive use of groundwater (see GSP Chapter 4). However, the MC GSA recognizes the correlative nature of overlying groundwater rights, which, when coupled with appropriated groundwater use, provides that all the users share in the sustainable quantity of native groundwater. For purposes of analyzing the availability of sustainable quantities of native groundwater for all lands within the GSA, the estimated total quantity of sustainable native groundwater – estimated at 90,000 acre-feet per year – can be calculated to be approximately 0.5 acre-feet per acre within the GSA (based upon estimates of about 90,000 acre-feet of total sustainable native groundwater available for about 185,000 acres within the MC GSA). The achievement of sustainability may or may not involve an equal allocation across the MC GSA, and the MC GSA will use its SGMA-granted authority to manage the basin so as to achieve this end. Furthermore, other GSAs within the Madera Subbasin may choose to manage their proportion of the estimated sustainable native groundwater differently than the MC GSA, but they are also subject to the overall subbasin sustainability requirements.





*Table A2.F.a-18. Current Water Budget: Average Net Recharge from SWS by Water Year Type (Acre-Feet).*

<b>Year Type</b>	<b>Number</b> of Years	<b>Infiltration</b> of Applied Water (a)	Infiltration of Precipitation (b)	Infiltration of <b>Surface Water</b> (c)	<b>Groundwater</b> <b>Extraction (d)</b>	<b>Net</b> Recharge from SWS $(a+b+c-d)$
W	8	2,879	4,099	4,702	9,271	2,408
AN	3	2,421	2,206	2,393	9,636	$-2,615$
<b>BN</b>	2	2,538	1,312	118	11,481	$-7,513$
D	4	2,591	1,535	419	11,712	$-7,167$
C	9	2,708	1,911	747	11,358	$-5,991$
Annual Average						
$(1989 - 2014)$	26	2,696	2,514	2,055	10,581	$-3,315$

# **Uncertainties in Water Budget Components**

Uncertainties associated with each water budget component were estimated as a percentage representing approximately a 95% confidence interval following the procedure described by Clemmens and Burt (1997). Uncertainties for all independently measured or estimated water budget components were estimated based on the measurement accuracy, typical values reported in technical literature, typical values calculated in other water budgets, and professional judgement.

Table A2.F.a-19 provides a summary of typical uncertainty values associated with major SWS inflow and outflow components. These uncertainties provide a basis for evaluating confidence in water budget results and help to identify data needs that may be addressed during GSP implementation.

Flowpath <b>Direction</b> (SWS <b>Boundary)</b>	<b>Water Budget</b> Component	<b>Data Source</b>	<b>Estimated</b> <b>Uncertainty</b> (%)	<b>Source</b>
	Surface Water <b>Inflows</b>	Calculation	20%	Estimated streamflow measurement accuracy and adjustment for losses.
Inflows	Precipitation	Calculation	30%	Clemmens, A.J. and C.M. Burt, 1997.
	Groundwater Extraction	Closure	20%	Typical uncertainty calculated for Land Surface System water balance closure.
	Surface Water Outflows	Closure	20%	Typical uncertainty calculated for Rivers and Streams System water balance closure.
	Evaporation	Calculation	20%	Estimated accuracy of calculation based on CIMIS reference ET and free water surface evaporation coefficient.
	ET of Applied Water	Calculation	10%	Estimated accuracy of daily IDC root zone water budget component based on CIMIS reference ET, estimated crop coefficients from SEBAL energy balance, and annual land use.
<b>Outflows</b>	ET of Precipitation	Calculation	10%	Estimated accuracy of daily IDC root zone water budget component based on CIMIS reference ET, precipitation, estimated crop coefficients from SEBAL energy balance, and annual land use.
	Infiltration of <b>Applied Water</b>	Calculation	20%	Estimated accuracy of daily IDC root zone water budget component based on annual land use and NRCS soils characteristics.
	Infiltration of Precipitation	Calculation	20%	Estimated accuracy of daily IDC root zone water budget component based on annual land use, NRCS soils characteristics, and CIMIS precipitation.
	Infiltration of Surface Water	Calculation	15%	Estimated accuracy of daily seepage calculation using NRCS soils characteristics and measured streamflow data.
	Change in SWS Storage	Calculation	50%	Professional Judgment.
Net Recharge from SWS		Calculation	25%	Estimated water budget accuracy; typical value calculated for GSA-level net recharge from SWS.

*Table A2.F.a-19. Estimated Uncertainty of GSA Water Budget Components.*

# **APPENDIX 2.F. WATER BUDGET INFORMATION**

# **2.F.b. Surface Water System Water Budget: Madera County GSA**

Prepared as part of the **Joint Groundwater Sustainability Plan Madera Subbasin**

January 2020

**GSP Team:**

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#### <span id="page-479-0"></span>**INTRODUCTION** 1

To ensure sustainable groundwater management throughout California's groundwater basins, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA) requires Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to prepare and adopt Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) with strategies to achieve subbasin groundwater sustainability within 20 years of plan adoption. Integral to each GSP is a water budget used to quantify the subbasin's groundwater overdraft (if applicable) and sustainable yield.

In 2017, Madera County (MC) GSA formed to manage approximately 178,000 acres of the Madera Subbasin. This document presents results of the surface water system (SWS) water budgets developed for historical and current land use conditions in MC GSA. The MC GSA water budgets were integrated with separate water budgets developed for the other six (6) GSAs in Madera Subbasin to prepare a boundary water budget for the Madera Subbasin SWS. Results of the subbasin boundary water budget are reported in the Madera Subbasin GSP Section 2.2.3 and were integrated with a subbasin groundwater model (GSP Appendix 6.D) to estimate subbasin sustainable yield (GSP Section 2.2.3).

#### <span id="page-479-1"></span> $\mathbf{2}$ **WATER BUDGET CONCEPTUAL MODEL**

A water budget is defined as a complete accounting of all water flowing into and out of a defined volume (e.g., a subbasin or a GSA) over a specified period of time. The conceptual model (or structure) of the MC GSA water budget developed for this investigation is consistent with the GSP Regulations defined under Title 23 of California Code of Regulations<sup>[1](#page-479-2)</sup> (CCR) and adheres to sound water budget principles and practices defined by California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in the Water Budget Best Management Practice (BMP) guidelines (DWR, 2016).

The lateral extent of MC GSA is defined by the boundaries indicated in Figure A2.F.b-1. The vertical extent of MC GSA is the land surface (top) and the base of fresh water at the bottom of the basin (bottom), as described in the hydrogeologic conceptual model (HCM) developed in GSP Section 2.2.1. The vertical extent of Madera Subbasin and its GSAs is subdivided into a surface water system (SWS) and the underlying groundwater system (GWS), with separate but related water budgets prepared for each that together represent the overall subbasin water budget.

A conceptual representation of the MC GSA water budget is represented in Figure A2.F.b-2. This document details only the SWS portion of the MC GSA water budget. The SWS is divided into two primary accounting centers: the Land Surface System and the Rivers and Streams System. The Land Surface System is further divided into three accounting centers representing MC GSA's water use sectors: Agricultural Land, Native Vegetation Land, and Urban Land (urban, industrial, and semi-agricultural).

Water budget components, or directional flow of water between accounting centers and across the SWS boundary, are indicated by arrows. Inflows and outflows were calculated using measurements and other historical data or were calculated as the water budget closure term – the difference between all other estimated or measured inflows and outflows from each accounting center or water use sector (bold arrows).

<span id="page-479-2"></span><sup>1</sup> California Code of Regulations Title 23. Waters, Division 2. Department of Water Resources, Chapter 1.5. Groundwater Management, Subchapter 2. Groundwater Sustainability Plans.







**Figure A2.F.b-2. Madera County GSA Water Budget Structure.**

Inflows to the SWS include precipitation, surface water inflows (in various canals and streams), and groundwater extraction. Outflows from the SWS include evapotranspiration (ET), surface water outflows (in various canals and streams), and infiltration to the groundwater system (seepage and deep percolation). Also represented in Figure A2.F.b-2 are inflows and outflows from the GWS, which are discussed and quantified at the subbasin level in the GWS water budget in GSP Section 2.2.3. Subsurface GWS inflows and outflows are not quantified on the water budget subregion scale.

Inflows and outflows were quantified following the process described in GSP Section 2.2.3 on a monthly time step for water years in the historical water budget base period (1989-2014 hydrologic and land use conditions), the current water budget (2015 land use using 1989-2014 average hydrologic conditions), and projected water budget. Four projected water budgets were prepared for the years 2019 through 2090 based on 1965 through 2015 hydrologic conditions:

- 1. Historical hydrologic conditions
	- a. Without projects and management actions, and
	- b. With projects and management actions
- 2. Historical hydrologic conditions adjusted for anticipated climate change per DWR-provided 2030 climate change factors
	- a. Without projects and management actions, and
	- b. With projects and management actions.

# <span id="page-482-0"></span>**WATER BUDGET ANALYSIS**

The historical water budget and current land use water budget for MC GSA are presented below following a summary of land use data relevant to water budget development. Land use data is provided for the 1989-2014 historical water budget period and for 2015, the current land use water budget period.

# <span id="page-482-1"></span>**Land Use**

Land use estimates for 1989 through 2015 corresponding to water use sectors are summarized in Figure A2.F.b-3 and Table A2.F.b-1 for MC GSA. According to GSP Regulations (23 CCR § 351(al)):

*"Water use sector" refers to categories of water demand based on the general land uses to which the water is applied, including urban, industrial, agricultural, managed wetlands, managed recharge, and native vegetation.*

In MC GSA, water use sectors include agricultural, native vegetation, and urban land use. The urban land use category includes urban and semi-agricultural<sup>[2](#page-482-2)</sup> lands as well as industrial land, which covers only a small area in the subbasin.

As indicated, agricultural lands have remained relatively steady since 1989, covering approximately 80,000 acres, on average, during the 1989 through 2014 historical base period. Native vegetation remained similarly constant between 1989 and 2012 followed by a slight decrease through 2015 that coincided with slight increases in agricultural and urban areas. Native vegetation covered approximately 78,000 acres on average between 1989 and 2014. Urban lands have historically represented a much smaller portion of the subbasin, averaging only approximately 18,000 acres during the same historical base period. However,

<span id="page-482-2"></span> $2$  As defined in the DWR county land use surveys, semi-agricultural land use subclasses include farmsteads, livestock feed lot operations, dairies, poultry farms, and miscellaneous semi-agricultural land use incidental to agriculture (small roads, ditches, non-planted areas of cropped fields (DWR, 2009).

urban areas have increased from approximately 15,000 acres in the early 1990s to over 20,000 acres in recent years. This is due in part to urban encroachment and changes in DWR's delineation of urban and semi-agricultural lands in land use surveys over time.

Agricultural land uses are further detailed in Figure A2.F.b-4 and Table A2.F.b-2. Most notable is orchard acreage, which has more than doubled between 1989 and 2015, with corresponding decreases in miscellaneous field crops, pasture and alfalfa, and idle land.



**Figure A2.F.b-3. Madera County GSA Land Use Areas.**

<b>Water Year (Type)</b>	<b>Agricultural</b>	Native Vegetation <sup>1</sup>	Urban <sup>2</sup>	<b>Total</b>
1989 (C)	79,728	83,756	14,332	177,816
1990 (C)	79,807	83,489	14,520	177,816
1991 (C)	79,786	83,328	14,702	177,816
1992 (C)	79,862	83,071	14,883	177,816
1993 (W)	79,891	82,852	15,072	177,816
1994 (C)	79,977	82,567	15,272	177,816
1995 (W)	80,144	82,179	15,493	177,816
1996 (W)	80,356	81,609	15,851	177,816
1997 (W)	80,573	81,034	16,209	177,816
1998 (W)	80,786	80,464	16,566	177,816
1999 (AN)	81,002	79,891	16,923	177,816
2000 (AN)	81,215	79,320	17,281	177,816

*Table A2.F.b-1. Madera County GSA Land Use Areas (Acres).*



<sup>1</sup> Area includes land classified as native vegetation and water surfaces.

<sup>2</sup> Area includes land classified as urban, industrial, and semi-agricultural.



**Figure A2.F.b-4. Madera County GSA Agricultural Land Use Areas.**

<b>Water Year</b>	<b>Citrus and</b>		<b>Grain and</b>			<b>Misc. Field</b>	<b>Misc. Truck</b>		<b>Pasture and</b>	
(Type)	<b>Subtropical</b>	Corn	<b>Hay Crops</b>	<b>Grapes</b>	Idle	<b>Crops</b>	<b>Crops</b>	Orchard	<b>Alfalfa</b>	<b>Total</b>
1989 (C)	1,646	2,532	3,782	15,246	14,068	10.090	568	16.789	15,005	79,807
1990 (C)	1,699	2,270	4,811	15,337	10,866	10,553	945	18,005	15,322	79,786
1991 (C)	1,891	2,165	3,605	15,692	8,699	11,526	905	18,820	16,483	79,862
1992 (C)	1,890	2,408	4,252	16,351	6,994	11,069	1,067	19,438	16,393	79,891
1993 (W)	1,935	2,594	4,236	16,627	7,892	11,109	1,300	20,062	14,135	79,977
1994 (C)	2,000	2,549	3,962	17,407	8,678	10,465	2,345	20,615	11,956	80,144
1995 (W)	1,781	2,794	8,490	17,639	5,016	10,147	704	24,579	8,994	80,356
1996 (W)	2,137	3,965	5,050	18,950	2,744	12,814	1,382	23,326	9,989	80,573
1997 (W)	2,182	2,871	5,444	20,413	4,063	8,415	2,061	24,614	10,509	80,786
1998 (W)	1,692	3,405	3,472	20,244	9,260	6,997	1,456	25,188	9,072	81,002
1999 (AN)	695	3,634	,665	23,168	9,473	5,863	,210	26,316	8,977	81,215
2000 (AN)	2,011	3,965	5,586	26,143	210	5,896	608	28,112	8,686	81,432
2001 (D)	1,675	3,827	9,496	21,468	2,155	6,699	598	27,679	7,835	81,157
2002 (D)	1,976	5,136	6,175	23,313	2,997	4,282	788	28,855	7,635	80,883
2003 (BN)	1,861	5,443	5,009	21,884	4,555	4,227	965	29,504	7,436	80,608
2004 (D)	1,767	5,572	5,099	21,043	4,114	4,589	,555	29,635	7,236	80,333
2005 (W)	2,028	5,189	6,226	20,219	4,718	3,832	.302	29,783	7,036	80,059
2006 (W)	1,934	5,732	5,776	19,309	6,585	2,678	1,620	29,588	6,836	79,784
2007 (C)	2,059	6,709	4,842	19,271	6,448	1,747	,661	30,410	6,637	79,510
2008 (C)	1,964	7,374	5,759	19,499	7,020	431	584	30,442	6,437	79,235
2009 (BN)	1,770	6,087	4,972	17,950	10,073	53	,041	31,051	6,237	78,960
2010 (AN)	1,874	6,518	6,613	17,396	5,283	603	1,106	33,530	6,038	78,686
2011 (W)	2,852	6,551	6,402	15,819	1,360	1,135	1,151	37,578	5,838	80,192
2012 (D)	1,590	7,507	5,788	15,769	3,036	844	1,140	38,405	6,111	81,701
2013 (C)	1,431	7,316	5,554	15,719	4,796	331	1,242	40,004	5,307	83,208
2014 (C)	2,932	5,417	3,997	15,670	4,606	,692	472	43,803	4,619	84,869
2015 (C)	1,632	5,368	5,410	16,417	2,420	53	3,061	45,422	5,087	80,341
Average (1989-2014)	1,895	4,597	5,233	18,752	5,989	5,696	1,145	27,928	9,106	79,807

*Table A2.F.b-2. Madera County GSA Agricultural Land Use Areas*

# <span id="page-486-0"></span>**Surface Water System Water Budget**

This section presents surface water system water budget components within MC GSA as per GSP regulations. These are followed by a summary of the water budget results by accounting center.

### <span id="page-486-1"></span>3.2.1 Inflows

#### <span id="page-486-2"></span>3.2.1.1 Surface Water Inflow by Water Source Type

Surface water inflows include surface water flowing into the basin across the basin boundary. Per the Regulations, surface inflows must be reported by water source type. According to the Regulations:

*"Water source type" represents the source from which water is derived to meet the applied beneficial uses, including groundwater, recycled water, reused water, and surface water sources identified as Central Valley Project, the State Water Project, the Colorado River Project, local supplies, and local imported supplies.*

Additionally, runoff of precipitation from upgradient areas adjacent to the subregion represents a potential source of surface water inflow.

#### *Local Supplies*

Surface water inflows to MC GSA include local supplies along Berenda Creek, Dry Creek, Cottonwood Creek, Chowchilla Bypass, and riparian diversions from the San Joaquin and Fresno Rivers.

#### *Local Imported Supplies*

MC GSA does not receive local imported supplies for irrigation purposes. These supplies are not used by MC GSA, but are included as inflow and outflow in the water budgets (Table A2.F.b-3 and A2.F.b-10).

#### *CVP Supplies*

MC GSA has a contract with USBR for 200 AF of CVP supplies. Additionally, significant quantities of CVP supplies are released from Hidden Dam or diverted from Madera Canal into Fresno River and pass through MC GSA before being diverted to MID. These supplies are not used by MC GSA, but are included as inflow and outflow in the water budgets (Table A2.F.b-3 and A2.F.b-10).

#### *Recycling and Reuse*

Recycling and reuse are not a significant source of supply within MC GSA.

#### *Other Surface Inflows*

For the water budgets presented herein, precipitation runoff from outside the subregion is considered relatively minimal and is expected to pass through the waterways accounted above following relatively large storm events. Precipitation runoff from lands inside the subregion is internal to the surface water system and is thus not considered as surface inflows to the subregion boundary.

Only spillage from the MID conveyance system are included as other surface inflows.

#### *Summary of Surface Inflows*

The surface water inflows described above are summarized by water source type in Figure A2.F.b-5 and Table A2.F.b-3. During the study period, surface water supplies vary greatly with water year type, with substantial local supply inflows during wet years that are reduced in above normal years and remain

relatively constant during all other year types. Total surface water inflows range from approximately 53 taf during average critical years to 846 taf during average wet years.



**Figure A2.F.b-5. Madera County GSA Surface Water Inflows by Water Source Type.**

<b>Water Year (Type)</b>	<b>Local Supply</b>	<b>CVP Supply1</b>	<b>Other Surface Inflows</b>	<b>Total</b>
1989 (C)	7,343	39,589	1,321	48,253
1990 (C)	2,331	31,501	1,168	35,000
1991 (C)	8,791	36,429	1,509	46,729
1992 (C)	5,222	38,514	1,321	45,057
1993 (W)	629,214	184,855	1,937	816,007
1994 (C)	2,106	57,604	1,734	61,444
1995 (W)	642,257	196,616	2,111	840,985
1996 (W)	635,211	155,611	2,336	793,158
1997 (W)	627,196	284,512	2,070	913,778
1998 (W)	602,712	243,716	2,070	848,497
1999 (AN)	123,541	111,324	2,173	237,038
2000 (AN)	32,503	88,744	1,880	123,126
2001 (D)	5,234	65,144	1,869	72,246
2002 (D)	4,313	48,809	1,509	54,631
2003 (BN)	2,331	48,628	1,736	52,695
2004 (D)	2,331	50,077	1,869	54,277
2005 (W)	284,500	94,968	2,962	382,430
2006 (W)	934,446	170,375	3,453	1,108,275

*Table A2.F.b-3. Madera County GSA Surface Water Inflows by Water Source Type (Acre-Feet)\*.*



1CVP Supply is considered as all water supply released from CVP storage facilities. The volume of CVP Supply includes CVP deliveries to CVP contractors/water users, and flood releases from CVP facilities that largely pass through the subbasin.

### <span id="page-488-0"></span>3.2.1.2 Precipitation

Precipitation estimates for MC GSA subregion are provided in Figure A2.F.b-6 and Table A2.F.b-4. Precipitation estimates are reported by water use sector.

Total precipitation is highly variable between years in the study area, ranging from approximately 127 taf (8.6 inches) during average critical years to 213 taf during average wet years (14.4 inches).



**Figure A2.F.b-6. Madera County GSA Precipitation by Water Use Sector.**





### <span id="page-489-0"></span>3.2.1.3 Groundwater Extraction by Water Use Sector

Estimates of groundwater extraction by water use sector are provided in Figure A2.F.b-7 and Table A2.F.b-5. For agricultural and urban (urban, semi-agricultural, industrial) lands, groundwater extraction represents pumping, while for native lands, groundwater extraction by riparian vegetation was considered to be negligible. Groundwater extraction is dominated by irrigated agriculture, varying substantially from year to year based on variability in surface water supplies.



**Figure A2.F.b-7. Madera County GSA Groundwater Extraction by Water Use Sector.**

*Table A2.F.b-5. Madera County GSA Groundwater Extraction by Water Use Sector (Acre-Feet).*

<b>Water Year (Type)</b>	<b>Agricultural</b>	<b>Native Vegetation</b>	Urban	<b>Total</b>
1989 (C)	180,603	0	9,495	190,098
1990 (C)	194,567	0	10,044	204,611
1991 (C)	206,333	0	9,490	215,823
1992 (C)	224,951	0	12,624	237,575
1993 (W)	202,789	0	9,926	212,715
1994 (C)	208,522	0	11,656	220,178
1995 (W)	168,046	0	6,079	174,125
1996 (W)	215,050	0	9,608	224,658
1997 (W)	240,182	0	15,563	255,745
1998 (W)	172,054	0	8,410	180,464
1999 (AN)	202,181	0	12,613	214,794
2000 (AN)	219,571	$\mathbf{0}$	11,907	231,478
2001 (D)	218,413	0	11,135	229,548
2002 (D)	230,507	0	14,389	244,896
2003 (BN)	222,971	0	13,894	236,865
2004 (D)	249,689	0	17,705	267,394
2005 (W)	200,840	0	11,013	211,853
2006 (W)	200,362	0	10,525	210,887
2007 (C)	231,077	$\mathbf 0$	16,657	247,734
2008 (C)	227,198	0	16,467	243,665
2009 (BN)	213,576	0	15,898	229,474
2010 (AN)	187,125	0	9,081	196,206
2011 (W)	203,776	0	10,230	214,006
2012 (D)	247,221	0	16,294	263,515
2013 (C)	236,847	0	17,127	253,974



### <span id="page-491-0"></span>3.2.1.4 Groundwater Discharge to Surface Water Sources

The depth to groundwater is greater than 100-200 ft across much of the Madera Subbasin. Given the depth to the water table in the Madera Subbasin, groundwater discharge to surface water sources is negligible.

### <span id="page-491-1"></span>3.2.2 Outflows

### <span id="page-491-2"></span>3.2.2.1 Evapotranspiration by Water Use Sector

Evapotranspiration (ET) by water use sector is reported in Figures A2.F.b-8 to A2.F.b-10 and Tables A2.F.b-6 to A2.F.b-8. First, total ET is reported, followed by ET from applied water and ET from precipitation.



**Figure A2.F.b-8. Madera County GSA Evapotranspiration by Water Use Sector.**

<b>Water Year (Type)</b>		Agricultural   Native Vegetation	Urban	<b>Total</b>
1989 (C)	177,906	62,628	15,404	255,938
1990 (C)	188,951	60,803	16,189	265,943
1991 (C)	185,427	54,756	14,253	254,436
1992 (C)	210,748	65,771	17,630	294,149
1993 (W)	201,286	65,018	17,140	283,444
1994 (C)	198,734	51,207	16,875	266,816
1995 (W)	188,453	63,052	15,797	267,302
1996 (W)	212,835	65,550	17,262	295,647
1997 (W)	214,500	57,188	18,751	290,439
1998 (W)	185,024	54,199	16,666	255,889
1999 (AN)	191,411	47,043	16,961	255,415
2000 (AN)	215,287	53,199	18,525	287,011
2001 (D)	212,925	57,040	18,478	288,443
2002 (D)	218,982	53,998	20,192	293,172
2003 (BN)	213,367	43,366	19,564	276,297
2004 (D)	231,762	48,007	22,053	301,822
2005 (W)	206,910	53,424	19,382	279,716
2006 (W)	209,720	57,711	19,771	287,202
2007 (C)	211,618	43,242	19,756	274,616
2008 (C)	216,199	45,621	21,627	283,447
2009 (BN)	209,427	37,410	21,268	268,105
2010 (AN)	204,666	52,693	19,177	276,536
2011 (W)	212,818	57,334	19,556	289,708
2012 (D)	219,083	32,978	18,006	270,067
2013 (C)	224,502	41,598	21,476	287,576
2014 (C)	217,298	21,451	18,044	256,793
2015 (C)	248,312	23,910	20,682	292,904
Average (1989-2014)	206,917	51,780	18,454	277,151
Average (1989-2014) W	203,943	59,185	18,041	281,168
Average (1989-2014) AN	203,788	50,978	18,221	272,987
Average (1989-2014) BN	211,397	40,388	20,416	272,201
Average (1989-2014) D	220,688	48,006	19,682	288,376
Average (1989-2014) C	203,487	49,675	17,917	271,079

*Table A2.F.b-6. Madera County GSA Evapotranspiration by Water Use Sector (Acre-Feet).*



**Figure A2.F.b-9. Madera County GSA Evapotranspiration of Applied Water by Water Use Sector.**

$(1101)$ c $1001$							
<b>Water Year (Type)</b>	<b>Agricultural</b>	<b>Native Vegetation</b>	Urban	<b>Total</b>			
1989 (C)	129,021	0	7,035	136,056			
1990 (C)	138,247	0	7,369	145,616			
1991 (C)	144,393	$\mathbf{0}$	6,815	151,208			
1992 (C)	166,047	$\mathbf{0}$	8,673	174,720			
1993 (W)	142,257	$\mathbf 0$	7,452	149,709			
1994 (C)	155,336	$\mathbf 0$	8,826	164,162			
1995 (W)	119,570	$\mathbf{0}$	5,379	124,949			
1996 (W)	156,264	$\mathbf{0}$	6,158	162,422			
1997 (W)	167,616	$\mathbf{0}$	8,937	176,553			
1998 (W)	123,144	$\mathbf{0}$	7,143	130,287			
1999 (AN)	153,963	0	8,395	162,358			
2000 (AN)	166,774	$\mathbf{0}$	9,401	176,175			
2001 (D)	164,685	$\mathbf{0}$	8,404	173,089			
2002 (D)	174,650	$\mathbf{0}$	10,550	185,200			
2003 (BN)	172,018	$\mathbf{0}$	11,149	183,167			
2004 (D)	195,478	$\mathbf{0}$	13,274	208,752			
2005 (W)	153,279	$\mathbf{0}$	9,455	162,734			
2006 (W)	153,241	$\mathbf 0$	8,804	162,045			
2007 (C)	181,864	$\mathbf 0$	11,143	193,007			
2008 (C)	177,972	$\mathbf 0$	12,860	190,832			
2009 (BN)	172,270	$\mathbf 0$	13,332	185,602			
2010 (AN)	147,439	$\mathbf 0$	8,604	156,043			
2011 (W)	156,658	0	7,723	164,381			

*Table A2.F.b-7. Madera County GSA Evapotranspiration of Applied Water by Water Use Sector (Acre-Feet).*





**Figure A2.F.b-10. Madera County GSA Evapotranspiration of Precipitation by Water Use Sector.**

*Table A2.F.b-8. Madera County GSA Evapotranspiration of Precipitation by Water Use Sector (Acre-Feet).*

<b>Water Year (Type)</b>	<b>Agricultural</b>	<b>Native Vegetation</b>	<b>Urban</b>	<b>Total</b>
1989 (C)	48,885	62,628	8,369	119,882
1990 (C)	50,704	60,803	8,820	120,327
1991 (C)	41,034	54,756	7,438	103,228
1992 (C)	44,701	65,771	8,957	119,429
1993 (W)	59,029	65,018	9,688	133,735
1994 (C)	43,398	51,207	8,049	102,654
1995 (W)	68,883	63,052	10,418	142,353
1996 (W)	56,571	65,550	11,104	133,225
1997 (W)	46,884	57,188	9,814	113,886
1998 (W)	61,880	54,199	9,523	125,602



Total ET varies between years, with the lowest observed in 1991, at approximately 254 taf, and greatest in 2004, at approximately 302 taf. Agricultural ET tends to increase in drier years, while native ET decreases. Total ET has remained relatively steady over time.

In addition to ET from land surfaces, estimates of evaporation from rivers and streams in MC GSA are reported in Figure A2.F.b-11 and Table A2.F.b-9. Evaporation from the Rivers and Streams System includes evaporation of both surface inflows and of precipitation runoff within local sloughs and depressions. Evaporation is highest in wet years when surface water inflows are typically higher, averaging approximately 3.7 taf in wet years.

### <span id="page-495-0"></span>3.2.2.2 Surface Water Outflow by Water Source Type

Surface water outflows by water source type are summarized in Figure A2.F.b-12 and Table A2.F.b-10. In the MC GSA, runoff of applied water is assumed negligible and runoff of precipitation is collected in waterways within MC GSA, reentering the groundwater system through infiltration completely except during large storm events. Thus, surface outflows primarily from local supplies and CVP supplies are expected to leave the subregion. These outflows include natural flows along waterways and diversions of USBR CVP deliveries to MID that are routed along Fresno River through the Madera County GSA subregion. CVP supplies are relatively constant between years, averaging 85 taf per year, whereas surface outflows of local supplies are significantly higher in wet years, averaging approximately 600 taf per wet year.



**Figure A2.F.b-11. Madera County GSA Evaporation from the Surface Water System.**







<sup>1</sup> Includes evaporation of surface inflows and of precipitation runoff.



**Figure A2.F.b-12. Madera County GSA Surface Outflows by Water Source Type.**





# <span id="page-498-0"></span>3.2.2.3 Infiltration of Precipitation

Estimated infiltration of precipitation (deep percolation of precipitation) by water use sector is provided in Figure A2.F.b-13 and Table A2.F.b-11. Infiltration of precipitation to the groundwater system is highly variable from year to year due to variation in the timing and amount of precipitation, ranging from less than 20 taf annually during some critical and dry years to more than 100 taf during 1995.



**Figure A2.F.b-13. Madera County GSA Infiltration of Precipitation by Water Use Sector.**

Feet).							
<b>Water Year (Type)</b>	<b>Agricultural</b>	<b>Native Vegetation</b>	<b>Urban</b>	<b>Total</b>			
1989 (C)	25,321	16,963	3,337	45,621			
1990 (C)	21,211	14,592	2,792	38,595			
1991 (C)	30,851	23,399	4,114	58,364			
1992 (C)	17,675	9,220	2,259	29,154			
1993 (W)	39,122	33,822	5,779	78,723			
1994 (C)	15,769	9,872	2,343	27,984			
1995 (W)	46,028	55,566	7,554	109,148			
1996 (W)	25,031	20,636	4,039	49,706			
1997 (W)	38,318	41,876	6,812	87,006			
1998 (W)	40,560	38,825	6,918	86,303			
1999 (AN)	12,156	6,530	2,089	20,775			
2000 (AN)	19,962	12,476	3,199	35,637			
2001 (D)	19,067	9,658	2,814	31,539			
2002 (D)	17,806	8,769	2,792	29,367			
2003 (BN)	13,573	6,919	2,218	22,710			
2004 (D)	11,202	4,525	1,688	17,415			
2005 (W)	20,598	11,118	3,418	35,134			
2006 (W)	24,848	19,143	4,500	48,491			
2007 (C)	8,557	4,165	1,575	14,297			
2008 (C)	13,270	6,361	2,111	21,742			
2009 (BN)	10,103	4,175	1,686	15,964			
2010 (AN)	21,714	17,993	4,378	44,085			
2011 (W)	24,001	21,634	4,956	50,591			

*Table A2.F.b-11. Madera County GSA Infiltration of Precipitation by Water Use Sector (Acre-*



### <span id="page-500-0"></span>3.2.2.4 Infiltration of Surface Water

Estimated infiltration of surface water (seepage) by source is provided for MC GSA in Figure A2.F.b-14 and Table A2.F.b-12. Seepage from the Rivers and Streams System includes seepage of both surface inflows and of precipitation runoff into local sloughs and depressions. Seepage from rivers and streams exhibits substantial variability over time, matching the annual variability of surface water inflows. While flows in the San Joaquin River were not accounted directly as water budget components<sup>[3](#page-500-2)</sup>, boundary seepage from the San Joaquin River contributes an additional 38 taf per year on average to net recharge in MC GSA.

### <span id="page-500-1"></span>3.2.2.5 Infiltration of Applied Water

Estimated infiltration of applied water (deep percolation of applied water) by water use sector is provided in Figure A2.F.b-15 and Table A2.F.b-13. Infiltration of applied water is dominated by agricultural irrigation and has remained relatively steady over time, with the exception of 2014, when surface water supplies in the subbasin were significantly reduced due to drought conditions.

<span id="page-500-2"></span><sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The San Joaquin River does not cross the lateral boundaries of the Madera Subbasin, as defined above. Thus, San Joaquin River flows are not considered surface water inflows within this water budget. A portion of infiltration of surface water from the San Joaquin River is considered to cross the subbasin boundaries into the groundwater system and is included in the calculation of the subbasin estimates of overdraft and net recharge from SWS.





**Figure A2.F.b-14. Madera County GSA Infiltration of Surface Water.**







<sup>1</sup> Includes infiltration of surface inflows and of precipitation runoff.



**Figure A2.F.b-15. Madera County GSA Infiltration of Applied Water by Water Use Sector.**



# *Table A2.F.b-13. Madera County GSA Infiltration of Applied Water by Water Use Sector (Acre-*

# <span id="page-503-0"></span>3.2.3 Change in Surface Water System Storage

Estimates of change in SWS storage are provided in Figure A2.F.b-16 and Table A2.F.b-14. Inter-annual changes in storage within the surface water system consist primarily of root zone soil moisture storage changes, are relatively small, and tend to average near zero over many years.










# **Historical Water Budget Summary**

Annual inflows, outflows, and change in SWS storage during the historical water budget period (1989- 2014) are summarized in Figure A2.F.b-17 and Table A2.F.b-15. Inflows are shown as positive values, while outflows and change in SWS storage are shown as negative values. Review of the variability in component volumes across years provides insight into the impacts of hydrology on the surface water system water budget.



**Figure A2.F.b-17. Madera County GSA Surface Water System Historical Water Budget, 1989-2014.**





#### **Current Water Budget Summary**  $3.4$

The current water budget was developed following a similar process to the historical water budget using the 2015 land use in Table 1 and the same 1989-2014 average hydrologic conditions of the historical base period, including surface water flows, precipitation, and weather parameters. This allowed quantification of groundwater inflows and outflows for current consumptive use in the context of average water supply conditions.

Annual inflows, outflows, and change in SWS storage from the current water budget are summarized in Figure A2.F.b-18 and Table A2.F.b-16. Inflows are shown as positive values, while outflows and change in SWS storage are shown as negative values.



**Figure A2.F.b-18. Madera County GSA Surface Water System Current Water Budget.**



# *Table A2.F.b-16. Madera County GSA Surface Water System Current Water Budget (Acre-Feet).*

# **Net Recharge from SWS**

Overdraft is defined in DWR Bulletin 118 as "the condition of a groundwater basin or subbasin in which the amount of water withdrawn by pumping exceeds the amount of water that recharges the basin over a period of years, during which the water supply conditions approximate average conditions" (DWR 2003). The Madera Subbasin water budget indicates that overdraft conditions occurred during the 1989-2014 historical base period. Per 23 CCR Section 354.18(b)(5), the subbasin overdraft has been quantified for this base period. The evaluation of overdraft conditions includes estimates of recharge from subsurface flows. However, estimates of recharge from subsurface flows are less accurate when estimated for areas less than an entire subbasin. Thus, for estimates of GSA level contribution to overdraft, the term net recharge from the SWS is defined as groundwater recharge minus groundwater extraction. Net recharge from the SWS is useful for understanding and analyzing the combined effects of land surface processes on the underlying GWS.

When calculated from the historical water budget, average net recharge from the SWS represents the average recharge (when positive) or shortage of recharge (when negative) based on historical cropping, land use practices, and average hydrologic conditions. When calculated from the current land use water budget, average net recharge represents the average recharge or shortage (negative net recharge) based on current cropping, land use practices, and average hydrologic conditions.

Average net recharge from the SWS is presented below for the MC GSA portion of the Madera Subbasin. Table A2.F.b-17 shows the average net recharge from the SWS for 1989-2014 based on the historical water budget, and Table A2.F.b-18 shows the same for the current water budget. Historically, average annual net recharge from the SWS in MC GSA was approximately -78 taf between 1989 and 2014. Under current land use conditions, average annual net recharge from the SWS has decreased to approximately -111 taf.

The MC GSA recognizes that groundwater users within its boundaries want to understand potential future limitations on groundwater resources available to meet their beneficial uses. As shown in both Table A2.F.b-17 and Table A2.F.b-18, average values for infiltration of precipitation and infiltration of surface water are provided (columns "b" and "c"). The slight variation between the tables reflects the modified land use conditions. Together, these values represent the sustainable native groundwater for the MC GSA, a value of about 90,000 acre-feet per year.

While the MC GSA has not determined whether an allocation approach, or other methods, will best allow the MC GSA to achieve needed reductions in the consumptive use of groundwater (see GSP Chapter 4). However, the MC GSA recognizes the correlative nature of overlying groundwater rights, which, when coupled with appropriated groundwater use, provides that all the users share in the sustainable quantity of native groundwater. For purposes of analyzing the availability of sustainable quantities of native groundwater for all lands within the GSA, the estimated total quantity of sustainable native groundwater – estimated at 90,000 acre-feet per year – can be calculated to be approximately 0.5 acre-feet per acre within the GSA (based upon estimates of about 90,000 acre-feet of total sustainable native groundwater available for about 185,000 acres within the MC GSA). The achievement of sustainability may or may not involve an equal allocation across the MC GSA, and the MC GSA will use its SGMA-granted authority to manage the basin so as to achieve this end. Furthermore, other GSAs within the Madera Subbasin may choose to manage their proportion of the estimated sustainable native groundwater differently than the MC GSA, but they are also subject to the overall subbasin sustainability requirements.



### *Table A2.F.b-17. Historical Water Budget: Average Net Recharge from SWS by Water Year Type, 1989-2014 (Acre-Feet).*

<sup>1</sup> Includes infiltration from the Rivers and Streams System and boundary seepage from San Joaquin River.





<sup>1</sup> Includes infiltration from the Rivers and Streams System and boundary seepage from San Joaquin River.

# **Uncertainties in Water Budget Components**

Uncertainties associated with each water budget component were estimated as a percentage representing approximately a 95% confidence interval following the procedure described by Clemmens and Burt (1997). Uncertainties for all independently measured or estimated water budget components were estimated based on the measurement accuracy, typical values reported in technical literature, typical values calculated in other water budgets, and professional judgement.

Table A2.F.b-19 provides a summary of typical uncertainty values associated with major SWS inflow and outflow components. These uncertainties provide a basis for evaluating confidence in water budget results and help to identify data needs that may be addressed during GSP implementation.

Flowpath <b>Direction</b> (SWS Boundary)	<b>Water Budget</b> Component	<b>Data Source</b>	<b>Estimated</b> <b>Uncertainty</b> (%)	<b>Source</b>
Inflows	Surface Water <b>Inflows</b>	Calculation	5%	<b>Estimated streamflow measurement</b> accuracy
	Riparian <b>Deliveries</b>	Measurement	10%	Estimated measurement accuracy.
	Precipitation	Calculation	30%	Clemmens, A.J. and C.M. Burt, 1997.
	Groundwater Extraction	Closure	20%	Typical uncertainty calculated for Land Surface System water balance closure.
<b>Outflows</b>	Surface Water Outflows	Closure	20%	Estimated streamflow measurement accuracy and adjustment for losses.
	Evaporation	Calculation	20%	Estimated accuracy of calculation based on CIMIS reference ET and free water surface evaporation coefficient.
	ET of Applied Water	Calculation	10%	Estimated accuracy of daily IDC root zone water budget component based on CIMIS reference ET, estimated crop coefficients from SEBAL energy balance, and annual land use.
	ET of Precipitation	Calculation	10%	Estimated accuracy of daily IDC root zone water budget component based on CIMIS reference ET, precipitation, estimated crop coefficients from SEBAL energy balance, and annual land use.
	Infiltration of <b>Applied Water</b>	Calculation	20%	Estimated accuracy of daily IDC root zone water budget component based on annual land use and NRCS soils characteristics.
	Infiltration of Precipitation	Calculation		Estimated accuracy of daily IDC root zone water budget component based on annual land use, NRCS soils characteristics, and CIMIS precipitation.
	Infiltration of Surface Water	Calculation	15%	Estimated accuracy of daily seepage calculation using NRCS soils characteristics and measured streamflow data.
	Change in SWS Storage	Calculation	50%	Professional Judgment.
Net Recharge from SWS		Calculation	25%	Estimated water budget accuracy; typical value calculated for GSA-level net recharge from SWS.

*Table A2.F.b-19. Estimated Uncertainty of GSA Water Budget Components.*

# **APPENDIX 2.F. WATER BUDGET INFORMATION**

**2.F.c. Surface Water System Water Budget: Madera Irrigation District GSA**

Prepared as part of the **Joint Groundwater Sustainability Plan Madera Subbasin**

January 2020

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#### <span id="page-516-0"></span>**INTRODUCTION** 1

To ensure sustainable groundwater management throughout California's groundwater basins, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA) requires Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to prepare and adopt Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) with strategies to achieve subbasin groundwater sustainability within 20 years of plan adoption. Integral to each GSP is a water budget used to quantify the subbasin's groundwater overdraft (if applicable) and sustainable yield.

In 2017, Madera Irrigation District (MID) GSA formed to manage approximately 134,000 acres of the Madera Subbasin. This document presents results of the surface water system (SWS) water budgets developed for historical and current land use conditions in MID GSA. The MID GSA water budgets were integrated with separate water budgets developed for the other six (6) GSAs in Madera Subbasin to prepare a boundary water budget for the Madera Subbasin SWS. Results of the subbasin boundary water budget are reported in the Madera Subbasin GSP Section 2.2.3 and were integrated with a subbasin groundwater model (GSP Appendix 6.D) to estimate subbasin sustainable yield (GSP Section 2.2.3).

#### <span id="page-516-1"></span>**WATER BUDGET CONCEPTUAL MODEL**  $\mathbf{2}$

A water budget is defined as a complete accounting of all water flowing into and out of a defined volume (e.g., a subbasin or a GSA) over a specified period of time. The conceptual model (or structure) of the MID GSA water budget developed for this investigation is consistent with the GSP Regulations defined under Title 23 of California Code of Regulations<sup>[1](#page-516-2)</sup> (CCR) and adheres to sound water budget principles and practices defined by California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in the Water Budget Best Management Practice (BMP) guidelines (DWR, 2016).

The lateral extent of MID GSA is defined by the boundaries indicated in Figure A2.F.c-1. The vertical extent of MID GSA is the land surface (top) and the base of fresh water at the bottom of the basin (bottom), as described in the hydrogeologic conceptual model (HCM) developed in GSP Section 2.2.1. The vertical extent of Madera Subbasin and its GSAs is subdivided into a surface water system (SWS) and the underlying groundwater system (GWS), with separate but related water budgets prepared for each that together represent the overall subbasin water budget.

A conceptual representation of the MID GSA water budget is represented in Figure A2.F.c-2. This document details only the SWS portion of the MID GSA water budget. The SWS is divided into three primary accounting centers: the Land Surface System, the Rivers and Streams System, and the Canal System. The Land Surface System is further divided into three accounting centers representing MID GSA's water use sectors: Agricultural Land, Native Vegetation Land, and Urban Land (urban, industrial, and semiagricultural).

Water budget components, or directional flow of water between accounting centers and across the SWS boundary, are indicated by arrows. Inflows and outflows were calculated using measurements and other historical data or were calculated as the water budget closure term – the difference between all other estimated or measured inflows and outflows from each accounting center or water use sector (bold arrows).

<span id="page-516-2"></span><sup>1</sup> California Code of Regulations Title 23. Waters, Division 2. Department of Water Resources, Chapter 1.5. Groundwater Management, Subchapter 2. Groundwater Sustainability Plans.



**Figure A2.F.c-1. Madera Subbasin GSAs Map** 



**Figure A2.F.c-2. Madera Irrigation District GSA Water Budget Structure**

Inflows to the SWS include precipitation, surface water inflows (in various canals and streams), and groundwater extraction. Outflows from the SWS include evapotranspiration (ET), surface water outflows (in various canals and streams), and infiltration to the groundwater system (seepage and deep percolation). Also represented in Figure A2.F.c-2 are inflows and outflows from the GWS, which are discussed and quantified at the subbasin level in the GWS water budget in GSP Section 2.2.3. Subsurface GWS inflows and outflows are not quantified on the water budget subregion scale.

Inflows and outflows were quantified following the process described in GSP Section 2.2.3 on a monthly time step for water years in the historical water budget base period (1989-2014 hydrologic and land use conditions), the current water budget (2015 land use using 1989-2014 average hydrologic conditions), and projected water budget. Four projected water budgets were prepared for the years 2019 through 2090 based on 1965 through 2015 hydrologic conditions, historical water supply data, and 2017 land use adjusted for urban area projected growth from 2017-2070 (areas were held constant from 2071-2090):

- 1. Historical hydrologic conditions (1965-2015) and water supply data (1989-2015) with adjustment of CVP supply based on projected alteration of available Friant Releases by the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP)
	- a. Without projects and management actions, and
	- b. With projects and management actions
- 2. Historical hydrologic conditions (1965-2015) and water supply data (1989-2015) with adjustment of CVP supply based on projected alteration of available Friant Releases by the SJRRP and adjustment for anticipated climate change per DWR-provided 2030 climate change factors.
	- a. Without projects and management actions, and
	- b. With projects and management actions

**Note, due to the "current water budget" approach described above, for the MID GSA specifically, this resulted in a conservative "current water budget" estimate of net recharge from SWS (defined as groundwater recharge minus groundwater extraction). MID's operations for the 1989-2014 time period would have differed due to increased demands as assumed by the 2015 land use. However to be conservative in this GSP, the MID GSA is planning for the conservative number (higher deficit).**

# <span id="page-519-0"></span>**WATER BUDGET ANALYSIS**

The historical water budget and current land use water budget for MID GSA are presented below following a summary of land use data relevant to water budget development. Land use data is provided for the 1989-2014 historical water budget period and for 2015, the current land use water budget period.

# <span id="page-519-1"></span>**Land Use**

Land use estimates for 1989 through 2015 corresponding to water use sectors (as defined by the GSP Regulations) are summarized in Figure A2.F.c-3 and Table A2.F.c-1 for MID GSA. According to GSP Regulations (23 CCR § 351(al)):

*"Water use sector" refers to categories of water demand based on the general land uses to which the water is applied, including urban, industrial, agricultural, managed wetlands, managed recharge, and native vegetation.*



**Figure A2.F.c-3. Madera Irrigation District GSA Land Use Areas**







1 Area includes land classified as native vegetation and water surfaces.

<sup>2</sup> Area includes land classified as urban, industrial, and semi-agricultural.

In MID GSA, water use sectors include agricultural, native vegetation, and urban land use. The urban land use category includes urban and semi-agricultural<sup>[2](#page-521-0)</sup> lands as well as industrial land, which covers only a small area in the subbasin.

As indicated, agricultural lands remained relatively steady between 1989 and the early 2000s, after which a slight decrease in agricultural acreage coincided with expansion of urban lands. This is due in part to urban encroachment and changes in DWR's delineation of urban lands in land use surveys over time.

On average, agricultural and urban lands covered an average of approximately 107,000 acres and 8,000 acres, respectively, between 1989 and 2014. Native vegetation has remained fairly constant over time, covering approximately 19,000 acres on average between 1989 and 2014.

Agricultural land uses are further detailed in Figure A2.F.c-4 and Table A2.F.c-2. Historically, a majority of the agricultural area in MID has been comprised of permanent crops, such as grapes and orchard crops. While grape acreage has decreased since the early 2000s, orchard acreage more than doubled between 1989 and 2015.

<span id="page-521-0"></span> $<sup>2</sup>$  As defined in the DWR county land use surveys, semi-agricultural land use subclasses include farmsteads,</sup> livestock feed lot operations, dairies, poultry farms, and miscellaneous semi-agricultural land use incidental to agriculture (small roads, ditches, non-planted areas of cropped fields (DWR, 2009).



**Figure A2.F.c-4. Madera Irrigation District GSA Agricultural Land Use Areas**

<b>Water Year</b>	<b>Citrus and</b>		<b>Grain and</b>			Misc. Field	<b>Misc. Truck</b>		<b>Pasture and</b>	
(Type)	<b>Subtropical</b>	Corn	<b>Hay Crops</b>	<b>Grapes</b>	Idle	<b>Crops</b>	<b>Crops</b>	<b>Orchard</b>	<b>Alfalfa</b>	<b>Total</b>
1989 (C)	,483	2,160	1,162	49,111	15,644	6,036	497	22,095	9,723	107,910
1990 (C)	,531	,889	1,575	49,434	12,541	6,453	846	23,551	10,202	108,021
1991 (C)	1,718	,758	1,108	50,577	9,791	7,229	853	24,764	10,397	108,197
1992 (C)	1,715	,938	,359	52,626	7,770	6,879	926	25,683	9,595	108,491
1993 (W)	1,746	2,043	1,331	53,441	8,113	6,930	1,058	26,715	7,303	108,680
1994 (C)	.771	,947	1,207	55,751	7,647	6,465	1,379	27,897	4,870	108,934
1995 (W)	,605	2,066	2,755	56,216	5,028	6,289	511	31,436	3,171	109,076
1996 (W)	,843	2,646	1,547	57,693	2,620	7,321	906	30,624	3,877	109,078
1997 (W)	,831	1,792	1,585	58,063	3,640	5,537	794	31,688	4,150	109,080
1998 (W)	.663	2,042	951	58,341	4,447	4,764	739	31,932	4,203	109,082
1999 (AN)	703	2,030	421	60,193	3,755	4,146	698	32,659	4,479	109,085
2000 (AN)	,901	2,110	1,387	60,485	124	4,349	585	33,540	4,606	109,087
2001 (D)	,791	1,753	2,245	58,485	864	5,181	609	33,584	4,578	109,090
2002 (D)	,949	2,131	1,564	59,187	1,327	3,401	752	33,886	4,419	108,614
2003 (BN)	,838	2,147	1,360	57,963	1,967	3,463	922	34,219	4,259	108,139
2004 (D)	,686	2,122	1,490	56,843	2,124	3,900	1,293	34,108	4,099	107,664
2005 (W)	,874	,805	1,963	55,598	3,117	3,404	1,332	34,155	3,940	107,187
2006 (W)	,735	.951	1,957	53,305	5,288	2,510	1,799	34,386	3,780	106,712
2007 (C)	1,797	2,445	1,761	53,158	4,661	1,751	1,811	35,231	3,621	106,237
2008 (C)	.671	2,990	2,261	53,616	5,616	471	741	34,935	3,461	105,762
2009 (BN)	,471	,600	2,099	50,434	9,589	66	1,342	35,383	3,302	105,285
2010 (AN)	,523	,678	3,024	48,612	4,822	878	1,454	39,677	3,142	104,810
2011 (W)	2,270	.517	3,161	44,360	1,451	2,162	1,525	44,906	2,983	104,334
2012 (D)	,242	2,729	3,016	43,674	2,741	1,233	1,782	45,012	3,392	104,821
2013 (C)	,097	2,539	3,334	42,985	3,890	373	1,993	46,453	2,645	105,309
2014 (C)	2,206	,355	2,055	42,298	3,004	1,463	1,333	50,074	2,010	105,796
2015 (C)	,205	1,421	2,628	43,290	1,481	43	2,565	51,559	2,218	106,410
Average $(1989 - 2014)$	1,679	2,046	1,834	53,171	5,061	3,948	1,095	33,792	4,854	107,480

*Table A2.F.c-2. Madera Irrigation District GSA Agricultural Land Use Areas*

# <span id="page-524-0"></span>**Surface Water System Water Budget**

This section presents surface water system water budget components within MID GSA as per GSP regulations. These are followed by a summary of the water budget results by accounting center.

### <span id="page-524-1"></span>3.2.1 Inflows

#### <span id="page-524-2"></span>3.2.1.1 Surface Water Inflow by Water Source Type

Surface water inflows include surface water flowing into MID across the subregion boundary. Per the Regulations, surface inflows must be reported by water source type. According to the Regulations:

*"Water source type" represents the source from which water is derived to meet the applied beneficial uses, including groundwater, recycled water, reused water, and surface water sources identified as Central Valley Project, the State Water Project, the Colorado River Project, local supplies, and local imported supplies.*

Additionally, runoff of precipitation from upgradient areas adjacent to the subregion represents a potential source of surface water inflow.

#### Local Supplies

Local supplies in MID GSA include pre-1914 water rights and riparian irrigators in MID GSA along Fresno River and the San Joaquin River. Natural flows along Berenda Creek, Dry Creek, and Cottonwood Creek also pass through the boundaries of MID GSA.

#### CVP Supplies

MID GSA receives CVP supplies from Hensley Lake via Hidden Dam releases in the Fresno River and from Millerton Lake via the Madera Canal. CVP supplies are diverted directly from Madera Canal or from the Fresno River through Franchi Diversion Dam.

#### Recycling and Reuse

Recycling and reuse are not a significant source of supply within MID.

#### Other Surface Inflows

For the water budgets presented herein, precipitation runoff from outside the subregion is considered relatively minimal and is expected to pass through the waterways accounted above following relatively large storm events. Precipitation runoff from lands inside the subregion is internal to the surface water system and is thus not considered as surface inflows to the subregion boundary

#### Summary of Surface Inflows

The surface water inflows described above are summarized by water source type in Figure A2.F.c-5 and Table A2.F.c-3. During the historical water budget period, total surface inflows average 216 taf per year.





*Table A2.F.c-3. Madera Irrigation District GSA Surface Water Inflows by Water Source Type (Acre-Feet).*





1CVP Supply is considered as all water supply released from CVP storage facilities. The volume of CVP Supply includes CVP deliveries to CVP contractors/water users, and flood releases from CVP facilities that largely pass through the subbasin.

# <span id="page-526-0"></span>3.2.1.2 Precipitation

Precipitation estimates for MID GSA are provided in Figure A2.F.c-6 and Table A2.F.c-4. Precipitation estimates are reported by water use sector.

Total precipitation is highly variable between years in the study area, ranging from approximately 84 taf (7.6 inches) during average dry years to 158 taf (14.4 inches) during average wet years.

#### <span id="page-526-1"></span>3.2.1.3 Groundwater Extraction by Water Use Sector

Estimates of groundwater extraction by water use sector are provided in Figure 7 and Table 5. For agricultural and urban (urban, semi-agricultural, industrial) lands, groundwater extraction represents pumping, while for native lands, groundwater extraction by riparian vegetation was considered to be minimal. Groundwater extraction is dominated by irrigated agriculture, varying substantially from year to year based on variability in surface water supplies.



**Figure A2.F.c-6. Madera Irrigation District GSA Precipitation by Water Use Sector.**

*Table A2.F.c-4. Madera Irrigation District GSA Precipitation by Water Use Sector (Acre-Feet).*

		<b>Native Vegetation</b>	<b>Urban</b> <b>Total</b>		
<b>Water Year (Type)</b>	<b>Agricultural</b>				
1989 (C)	107,550	19,570	4,110	131,240	
1990 (C)	100,370	18,120	3,860	122,350	
1991 (C)	105,040	18,740	4,060	127,850	
1992 (C)	86,070	15,070	3,340	104,480	
1993 (W)	146,080	25,250	5,710	177,040	
1994 (C)	82,970	14,100	3,260	100,340	
1995 (W)	178,340	30,020	7,060	215,420	
1996 (W)	108,990	18,370	4,310	131,660	
1997 (W)	124,530	21,010	4,930	150,470	
1998 (W)	149,720	25,290	5,920	180,920	
1999 (AN)	60,720	10,270	2,400	73,390	
2000 (AN)	99,000	16,760	3,910	119,670	
2001 (D)	92,360	15,660	3,640	111,660	
2002 (D)	83,450	14,270	3,570	101,290	
2003 (BN)	72,990	12,580	3,360	88,940	
2004 (D)	60,380	10,500	2,990	73,870	
2005 (W)	103,700	18,180	5,480	127,370	
2006 (W)	113,740	20,110	6,400	140,250	
2007 (C)	45,860	8,180	2,740	56,780	
2008 (C)	69,360	12,470	4,380	86,220	
2009 (BN)	62,380	11,320	4,160	77,860	
2010 (AN)	106,640	19,510	7,490	133,640	
2011 (W)	111,120	20,500	8,200	139,820	





**Figure A2.F.c-7. Madera Irrigation District GSA Groundwater Extraction by Water Use Sector.**

*Table A2.F.c-5. Madera Irrigation District GSA Groundwater Extraction by Water Use Sector (Acre-Feet).*

<b>Water Year (Type)</b>	<b>Agricultural</b>	<b>Native Vegetation</b>	<b>Urban</b>	<b>Total</b>
1989 (C)	171,160	0	3,110	174,270
1990 (C)	202,280	0	3,280	205,560
1991 (C)	182,270	0	3,080	185,350
1992 (C)	223,910	0	4,060	227,970
1993 (W)	135,780	0	3,190	138,960
1994 (C)	163,980	0	3,650	167,630
1995 (W)	116,830	0	2,080	118,910
1996 (W)	118,340	0	2,950	121,290
1997 (W)	154,550	0	4,740	159,280
1998 (W)	132,970	0	2,550	135,520



### <span id="page-529-0"></span>3.2.1.4 Groundwater Discharge to Surface Water Sources

The depth to groundwater is greater than 100-200 ft across much of the Madera Subbasin. Given the depth to the water table in the Madera Subbasin, groundwater discharge to surface water sources is negligible.

### <span id="page-529-1"></span>3.2.2 Outflows

#### <span id="page-529-2"></span>3.2.2.1 Evapotranspiration by Water Use Sector

Evapotranspiration (ET) by water use sector is reported in Figures A2.F.c-8 to A2.F.c-10 and Tables A2.F.c-6 to A2.F.c-8. First, total ET is reported, followed by ET from applied water and ET from precipitation.

Total ET varies between years, with the lowest observed in 1989, at approximately 259 taf, and greatest in 2004, at approximately 322 taf. Agricultural ET tends to increase in drier years, while native ET decreases.



**Figure A2.F.c-8. Madera Irrigation District GSA Evapotranspiration by Water Use Sector.**











*Table A2.F.c-7. Madera Irrigation District GSA Evapotranspiration of Applied Water by Water Use Sector (Acre-Feet).*











# *Table A2.F.c-8. Madera Irrigation District GSA Evapotranspiration of Precipitation by Water Use Sector (Acre-Feet).*

In addition to ET from land surfaces, estimates of evaporation from MID canals and rivers and streams are reported in Figure A2.F.c-11 and Table A2.F.c-9. Evaporation from the Rivers and Streams System includes evaporation of both surface inflows and of precipitation runoff within local sloughs and depressions. Evaporation from the canals is relatively constant between years, averaging approximately 1 taf annually. Evaporation from the rivers and streams is higher during wet years (3.8 taf) and lower during critical years (2.2 taf), following the pattern of typical surface water inflows.





<b>Water Year (Type)</b>	$\cdots$ Canals	,. Rivers and Streams <sup>1</sup>	<b>Total</b>
1989 (C)	750	2,280	3,030
1990 (C)	730	1,930	2,660
1991 (C)	880	2,610	3,490
1992 (C)	800	2,890	3,690
1993 (W)	1,110	4,000	5,110
1994 (C)	1,000	2,490	3,490
1995 (W)	1,020	3,630	4,650
1996 (W)	1,210	3,970	5,180
1997 (W)	1,250	3,720	4,970
1998 (W)	1,020	3,690	4,710
1999 (AN)	1,140	2,920	4,060
2000 (AN)	1,130	3,690	4,820
2001 (D)	1,140	2,960	4,100
2002 (D)	920	2,680	3,600
2003 (BN)	1,010	2,590	3,600
2004 (D)	1,200	2,810	4,010
2005 (W)	1,020	3,600	4,620
2006 (W)	1,100	4,040	5,140
2007 (C)	990	2,660	3,650
2008 (C)	910	2,430	3,340
2009 (BN)	1,030	2,250	3,280
2010 (AN)	1,120	3,110	4,230
2011 (W)	1,000	3,800	4,800

*Table A2.F.c-9. Madera Irrigation District GSA Evaporation from the Surface Water System (Acre-Feet).*



<sup>1</sup> Includes evaporation of surface inflows and of precipitation runoff.

### <span id="page-535-0"></span>3.2.2.2 Surface Water Outflow by Water Source Type

Surface water outflows by water source type are summarized in Figure A2.F.c-12 and Table A2.F.c-10. In MID GSA, runoff of applied water is assumed negligible and runoff of precipitation is collected in waterways within MID GSA, with most infiltrating to the groundwater system except following the largest storm events. Thus, surface outflows primarily from local supplies and CVP supplies are expected to leave the subregion. Surface outflows of local supplies are comprised of natural flows along waterways that cross the subregion. Surface outflows of CVP supplies are comprised, in part, of direct deliveries made by MID to customers or water distributors outside MID, including Gravelly Ford WD, Madera WD, Root Creek WD, and Chowchilla WD. Other surface outflows of CVP supplies include Hidden Dam and Millerton Reservoir releases along Fresno River and releases from the MID conveyance system to Cottonwood Creek for delivery to Gravelly Ford WD. Total surface outflows average approximately 53 taf per year.



**Figure A2.F.c-12. Madera Irrigation District GSA Surface Outflows by Water Source Type.**



# *Table A2.F.c-10. Madera Irrigation District GSA Surface Outflows by Water Source Type (Acre-*

# <span id="page-536-0"></span>3.2.2.3 Infiltration of Precipitation

Estimated infiltration of precipitation (deep percolation of precipitation) by water use sector is provided in Figure A2.F.c-13 and Table A2.F.c-11. Infiltration of precipitation to the groundwater system is highly variable from year to year due to variation in the timing and amount of precipitation, ranging from less than 15 taf annually during some critical and dry years to more than 80 taf during 1995.

# <span id="page-536-1"></span>3.2.2.4 Infiltration of Surface Water

Estimated infiltration of surface water (seepage) by source is provided in Figure A2.F.c-14 and Table A2.F.c-12. Seepage from the Rivers and Streams System includes seepage of both surface inflows and of precipitation runoff into local sloughs and depressions. The canal system predominantly contributes to

seepage in MID, with seepage averaging 47 taf per year between 1989 and 2014. Seepage from rivers and streams is comparatively lower, averaging 14 taf per year. While flows in the San Joaquin River were not accounted directly as water budget components<sup>[3](#page-537-0)</sup>, boundary seepage from the San Joaquin River contributes an additional 20 taf per year on average to net recharge in MID GSA.



**Figure A2.F.c-13. Madera Irrigation District GSA Infiltration of Precipitation by Water Use Sector.**





<span id="page-537-0"></span><sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The San Joaquin River does not cross the lateral boundaries of the Madera Subbasin, as defined above. Thus, San Joaquin River flows are not considered surface water inflows within this water budget. A portion of infiltration of surface water from the San Joaquin River is considered to cross the subbasin boundaries into the groundwater system and is included in the calculation of the subbasin estimates of overdraft and net recharge from SWS.





**Figure A2.F.c-14. Madera Irrigation District GSA Infiltration of Surface Water.**





<sup>1</sup> Includes infiltration of surface inflows and of precipitation runoff.

# <span id="page-539-0"></span>3.2.2.5 Infiltration of Applied Water

Estimated infiltration of applied water (deep percolation of applied water) by water use sector is provided in Figure A2.F.c-15 and Table A2.F.c-13. Infiltration of applied water is dominated by agricultural irrigation and has slowly decreased over time, likely due to increase use of drip and micro-irrigation systems in place of flood irrigation.


**Figure A2.F.c-15. Madera Irrigation District GSA Infiltration of Applied Water by Water Use Sector.**

<b>Water Year (Type)</b>	<b>Agricultural</b>	<b>Native Vegetation</b>	<b>Urban</b>	<b>Total</b>
1989 (C)	67,900	0	930	68,830
1990 ( 'C	66,090	0	850	66,940
1991 (C)	72,660	$\pmb{0}$	870	73,530
1992 (C)	69,190	0	830	70,020
1993 (W)	75,490	$\mathbf{0}$	1,180	76,670
1994 (C)	66,690	$\mathbf{0}$	850	67,540
1995 (W)	68,250	$\mathbf 0$	930	69,180
1996 (W)	63,690	0	650	64,340
1997 (W)	89,740	$\mathbf 0$	1,400	91,140
1998 (W)	68,940	0	1,110	70,050
1999 (AN)	61,820	$\mathbf{0}$	710	62,530
2000 (AN)	65,060	$\mathbf{0}$	860	65,920
2001 (D)	66,430	0	780	67,210
2002 (D)	69,890	$\mathbf 0$	1,010	70,900
2003 (BN)	60,980	0	990	61,970
2004 (D)	63,640	0	1,110	64,750
2005 (W)	62,520	0	1,320	63,840
2006 (W)	59,600	$\mathbf 0$	1,060	60,660
C, 2007	56,780	$\mathbf 0$	1,130	57,910
2008 (C)	57,530	0	1,440	58,970
2009 (BN)	50,930	$\pmb{0}$	1,380	52,310
2010 (AN)	51,030	0	1,320	52,350
2011 (W)	58,560	$\pmb{0}$	1,390	59,950

*Table A2.F.c-13. Madera Irrigation District GSA Infiltration of Applied Water by Water Use Sector (Acre-Feet).*



### 3.2.3 Change in Surface Water System Storage

Estimates of change in SWS storage are provided in Figure A2.F.c-16 and Table A2.F.c-14. Inter-annual changes in storage within the surface water system consist primarily of root zone soil moisture storage changes, are relatively small, and tend to average near zero over many years.



**Figure A2.F.c-16. Madera Irrigation District GSA Change in Surface Water System Storage.**



# *Table A2.F.c-14. Madera Irrigation District GSA Change in Surface Water System Storage*

### **Historical Water Budget Summary**

Annual inflows, outflows, and change in SWS storage during the historical water budget period (1989- 2014) are summarized in Figure A2.F.c-17 and Table A2.F.c-15. Inflows are shown as positive values, while outflows and change in SWS storage are shown as negative values. Review of the variability in component volumes across years provides insight into the impacts of hydrology on the surface water system water budget.



**Figure A2.F.c-17. Madera Irrigation District GSA Surface Water System Historical Water Budget, 1989- 2014.**



#### *Table A2.F.c-15. Madera Irrigation District GSA Surface Water System Historical Water Budget, 1989-2014 (Acre-Feet).*

1 Includes ET of applied water, ET of precipitation, and evaporation from rivers and streams.

<sup>2</sup> Includes infiltration from the Rivers and Streams System and Canal System.

#### **Current Water Budget Summary**  $3.4$

The current water budget was developed following a similar process to the historical water budget using the 2015 land use in Table A2.F.c-1 and the same 1989-2014 average hydrologic conditions of the historical base period, including surface water flows, precipitation, and weather parameters. This allowed quantification of groundwater inflows and outflows for current consumptive use in the context of average water supply conditions.

Annual inflows, outflows, and change in SWS storage from the current water budget are summarized in Figure A2.F.c-18 and Table A2.F.c-16. Inflows are shown as positive values, while outflows and change in SWS storage are shown as negative values.

**Note, due to the "current water budget" approach described above, for the MID GSA specifically, this resulted in a conservative "current water budget" estimate of net recharge from SWS (defined as groundwater recharge minus groundwater extraction). MID's operations for the 1989-2014 time period would have differed due to increased demands as assumed by the 2015 land use. Thus, while MID GSA is planning for the conservative number (higher deficit) in this GSP, it is acknowledged that MID GSA's actual deficit, if any, is less and that MID GSA has been, and is, operating close to sustainability.**



**Figure A2.F.c-18. Madera Irrigation District GSA Surface Water System Current Water Budget.**

	<b>Boundary</b>								Change in
	<b>Surface</b>	Groundwater		Evapo-	Infil. of	Infil. of Surface	Infil. of Applied	<b>Boundary</b>	<b>SWS</b>
<b>Water Year</b>	<b>Inflows</b>	<b>Extraction</b>	Precipitation	transpiration <sup>1</sup>	Precipitation	Water <sup>2</sup>	Water	<b>Surface Outflows</b>	<b>Storage</b>
1989 (C)	115,530	232,490	133,400	$-315,770$	$-37,510$	$-48,140$	$-78,510$	$-2,540$	1,040
1990 (C)	80,120	258,080	124,370	$-324,460$	$-31,240$	$-30,170$	$-73,870$	$-2,270$	$-560$
1991 (C)	116,080	225,970	129,950	$-307,870$	$-48,460$	$-33,980$	$-77,750$	$-3,170$	$-770$
1992 (C)	101,660	269,770	106,190	$-348,310$	$-24,630$	$-34,150$	$-71,530$	$-1,270$	2,280
1993 (W)	381,040	177,840	179,920	$-333,430$	$-64,470$	$-154,820$	$-81,440$	$-101,650$	$-3,010$
1994 (C)	149,800	201,630	101,950	$-327,240$	$-21,810$	$-31,520$	$-69,570$	$-3,310$	$\overline{70}$
1995 (W)	388,800	143,810	218,840	$-305,180$	$-80,110$	$-141,570$	$-72,160$	$-153,090$	670
1996 (W)	358,820	141,410	133,740	$-330,810$	$-37,750$	$-110,970$	$-63,220$	$-91,340$	130
1997 (W)	491,680	187,070	152,810	$-336,130$	$-66,460$	$-105,580$	$-92,170$	$-232,640$	,400
1998 (W)	433,440	155,890	183,710	$-298,970$	$-66,270$	$-94,950$	$-72,040$	$-238,380$	$-2,430$
1999 (AN)	234,720	175,440	74,510	$-308,000$	$-16,420$	$-54,920$	$-63,500$	$-45,150$	3,320
2000 (AN)	232,730	180,000	121,470	$-322,000$	$-29,760$	$-69,960$	$-64,230$	$-46,970$	$-1,290$
2001 (D)	171,690	194,270	113,330	$-327,330$	$-25,940$	$-53,950$	$-65,190$	$-7,220$	340
2002 (D)	146,030	225,280	102,840	$-332,660$	$-25,060$	$-43,210$	$-69,550$	$-4,160$	490
2003 (BN)	150,020	212,680	90,350	$-323,950$	$-18,060$	$-42,370$	$-62,050$	$-5,580$	$-1,050$
2004 (D)	158,210	238,980	75,070	$-351,620$	$-14,020$	$-39,400$	$-63,740$	$-5,030$	1,540
2005 (W)	231,350	168,880	129,500	$-318,940$	$-29,060$	$-64,990$	$-64,380$	$-51,950$	$-420$
2006 (W)	360,250	166,570	142,660	$-327,580$	$-38,580$	$-85,040$	$-61,990$	$-154,450$	$-1,840$
$\overline{2007}$ (C)	205,540	221,600	57,780	$-324,680$	$-10,700$	$-80,060$	$-59,310$	$-13,090$	2,910
2008 (C)	159,900	226,760	87,780	$-336,110$	$-18,860$	$-53,750$	$-61,580$	$-3,950$	$-190$
2009 (BN)	129,790	233,260	79,310	$-333,850$	$-13,760$	$-29,990$	$-58,410$	$-4,130$	$-2,220$
2010 (AN)	194,610	143,290	136,190	$-313,240$	$-34,320$	$-42,370$	$-55,310$	$-27,970$	$-870$
2011 (W)	371,870	131,130	142,550	$-311,510$	$-39,380$	$-91,890$	$-60,400$	$-145,760$	3,400
2012(D)	123,900	232,970	48,520	$-308,930$	$-10,460$	$-9,100$	$-59,210$	$-17,110$	$-580$
2013 (C)	100,750	245,860	81,980	$-318,240$	$-18,980$	$-21,970$	$-63,580$	$-6,660$	840
2014 (C)	23,120	292,300	40,040	$-289,500$	$-7,410$	$-4,220$	$-54,020$	$-2,250$	,940
Average (1989- 2014)	215,820	203,200	114,950	$-322,170$	$-31,900$	$-60,500$	$-66,870$	$-52,730$	200
W	377,160	159,080	160,470	$-320,320$	$-52,760$	$-106,230$	$-70,970$	$-146,160$	$-260$
AN	220,690	166,240	110,720	$-314,410$	$-26,830$	$-55,750$	$-61,010$	$-40,030$	390
<b>BN</b>	139,910	222,970	84,830	$-328,900$	$-15,910$	$-36,180$	$-60,230$	$-4,850$	$-1,640$
D	149,960	222,880	84,940	$-330,130$	$-18,870$	$-36,410$	$-64,420$	$-8,380$	450
C	116,940	241,610	95,940	$-321,350$	$-24,400$	$-37,550$	$-67,750$	$-4,280$	840

*Table A2.F.c-16. Madera Irrigation District GSA Surface Water System Current Water Budget (Acre-Feet).*

<sup>1</sup> Includes ET of applied water, ET of precipitation, and evaporation from rivers and streams.

<sup>2</sup> Includes infiltration from the Rivers and Streams System and Canal System.

### **Net Recharge from SWS**

Overdraft is defined in DWR Bulletin 118 as "the condition of a groundwater basin or subbasin in which the amount of water withdrawn by pumping exceeds the amount of water that recharges the basin over a period of years, during which the water supply conditions approximate average conditions" (DWR 2003). The Madera Subbasin water budget indicates that overdraft conditions occurred during the 1989-2014 historical base period. Per 23 CCR Section 354.18(b)(5), the subbasin overdraft has been quantified for this base period. The evaluation of overdraft conditions includes estimates of recharge from subsurface flows. However, estimates of recharge from subsurface flows are less accurate when estimated for areas less than an entire subbasin. Thus, for GSA level contribution to overdraft, the term net recharge from the SWS is defined as groundwater recharge minus groundwater extraction. Net Recharge from the SWS is useful for understanding and analyzing the combined effects of land surface processes on the underlying GWS.

When calculated from the historical water budget, average net recharge from the SWS represents the average recharge (when positive) or shortage of recharge (when negative) based on historical cropping, land use practices, and average hydrologic conditions. When calculated from the current land use water budget, average net recharge represents the average recharge or shortage (negative net recharge) based on current cropping, land use practices, and average hydrologic conditions.

Average net recharge from the SWS is presented below for the MID GSA portion of the Madera Subbasin. Table A2.F.c-17 shows the average net recharge from the SWS for 1989-2014 based on the historical water budget, and Table A2.F.c-18 shows the same for the current water budget. Historically, the average net recharge in MID GSA was approximately 2 taf per year between 1989 and 2014. Under current land use conditions, the average net recharge in MID GSA is approximately -24 taf, indicating shortage conditions.

$1, \mu$ ; $1, \sigma$ , $1, \sigma$ , $1, \sigma$ , $1, \sigma$ , $\sigma$								
<b>Year Type</b>	<b>Number</b> of Years	<b>Infiltration</b> of Applied Water (a)	Infiltration of Precipitation (b)	Infiltration of Surface Water <sup>1</sup> (C)	Groundwater <b>Extraction (d)</b>	<b>Net Recharge</b> from SWS $(a+b+c-d)$		
W	8	69,480	53,800	127,000	135,550	114,730		
AN	3	60,270	27,590	74,940	145,850	16,950		
<b>BN</b>	2	57,140	16,270	57,780	191,050	$-59,860$		
D	4	65,560	19,720	54,960	205,990	$-65,750$		
C	9	64,260	25,350	58,600	206,940	$-58,730$		
Annual Average $(1989 - 2014)$	26	65,060	32,800	80,910	176,560	2,210		

*Table A2.F.c-17. Historical Water Budget: Average Net Recharge from SWS by Water Year Type, 1989-2014 (Acre-Feet).*

<sup>1</sup> Includes infiltration from the Rivers and Streams System, Canal System, and boundary seepage from San Joaquin River.





<sup>1</sup> Includes infiltration from the Rivers and Streams System, Canal System, and boundary seepage from San Joaquin River.

### **Uncertainties in Water Budget Components**

Uncertainties associated with each water budget component were estimated as a percentage representing approximately a 95% confidence interval following the procedure described by Clemmens and Burt (1997). Uncertainties for all independently measured or estimated water budget components were estimated based on the measurement accuracy, typical values reported in technical literature, typical values calculated in other water budgets, and professional judgement.

Table A2.F.c-19 provides a summary of typical uncertainty values associated with major SWS inflow and outflow components. These uncertainties provide a basis for evaluating confidence in water budget results and help to identify data needs that may be addressed during GSP implementation.





## **APPENDIX 2.F. WATER BUDGET INFORMATION**

**2.F.d. Surface Water System Water Budget: Madera Water District GSA**

Prepared as part of the **Joint Groundwater Sustainability Plan Madera Subbasin**

January 2020

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#### <span id="page-554-0"></span>**INTRODUCTION** 1

To ensure sustainable groundwater management throughout California's groundwater basins, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA) requires Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to prepare and adopt Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) with strategies to achieve subbasin groundwater sustainability within 20 years of plan adoption. Integral to each GSP is a water budget used to quantify the subbasin's groundwater overdraft (if applicable) and sustainable yield.

In 2017, Madera Water District (MWD) GSA formed to manage approximately 3,700 acres of the Madera Subbasin. This document presents results of the surface water system (SWS) water budgets developed for historical and current land use conditions in MWD GSA. The MWD GSA water budgets were integrated with separate water budgets developed for the other six (6) GSAs in Madera Subbasin to prepare a boundary water budget for the Madera Subbasin SWS. Results of the subbasin boundary water budget are reported in the Madera Subbasin GSP Section 2.2.3 and were integrated with a subbasin groundwater model (GSP Appendix 6.D) to estimate subbasin sustainable yield (GSP Section 2.2.3).

#### <span id="page-554-1"></span> $\mathbf{2}$ **WATER BUDGET CONCEPTUAL MODEL**

A water budget is defined as a complete accounting of all water flowing into and out of a defined volume (e.g., a subbasin or a GSA) over a specified period of time. The conceptual model (or structure) of the MWD GSA water budget developed for this investigation is consistent with the GSP Regulations defined under Title 23 of California Code of Regulations<sup>[1](#page-554-2)</sup> (CCR) and adheres to sound water budget principles and practices defined by California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in the Water Budget Best Management Practice (BMP) guidelines (DWR, 2016).

The lateral extent of MWD GSA is defined by the boundaries indicated in Figure A2.F.d-1. The vertical extent of MWD GSA is the land surface (top) and the base of fresh water at the bottom of the basin (bottom), as described in the hydrogeologic conceptual model (HCM) developed in GSP Section 2.2.1. The vertical extent of Madera Subbasin and its GSAs is subdivided into a surface water system (SWS) and the underlying groundwater system (GWS), with separate but related water budgets prepared for each that together represent the overall subbasin water budget.

A conceptual representation of the MWD GSA water budget is represented in Figure A2.F.d-2. This document details only the SWS portion of the MWD GSA water budget. The SWS is divided into three primary accounting centers: the Land Surface System, the Rivers and Streams System, and the Conveyance System. The Land Surface System is further divided into three accounting centers representing MWD GSA's water use sectors: Agricultural Land, Native Vegetation Land, and Urban Land (urban, industrial, and semi-agricultural).

Water budget components, or directional flow of water between accounting centers and across the SWS boundary, are indicated by arrows. Inflows and outflows were calculated using measurements and other historical data or were calculated as the water budget closure term – the difference between all other estimated or measured inflows and outflows from each accounting center or water use sector (bold arrows).

<span id="page-554-2"></span><sup>1</sup> California Code of Regulations Title 23. Waters, Division 2. Department of Water Resources, Chapter 1.5. Groundwater Management, Subchapter 2. Groundwater Sustainability Plans.







**= Closure**

**Figure A2.F.d-2. Madera Water District GSA Water Budget Structure**

Inflows to the SWS include precipitation, surface water inflows (in various rivers and streams), and groundwater extraction. Outflows from the SWS include evapotranspiration (ET), surface water outflows (in various rivers and streams), and infiltration to the groundwater system (seepage and deep percolation). Also represented in Figure A2.F.d-2 are inflows and outflows from the GWS, which are discussed and quantified at the subbasin level in the GWS water budget in GSP Section 2.2.3. Subsurface GWS inflows and outflows are not quantified on the water budget subregion scale.

Inflows and outflows were quantified following the process described in GSP Section 2.2.3 on a monthly time step for water years in the historical water budget base period (1989-2014 hydrologic and land use conditions), the current water budget (2015 land use using 1989-2014 average hydrologic conditions), and projected water budget. Four projected water budgets were prepared for the years 2019 through 2090 based on 1965 through 2015 hydrologic conditions:

- 1. Historical hydrologic conditions
	- a. Without projects and management actions, and
	- b. With projects and management actions
- 2. Historical hydrologic conditions adjusted for anticipated climate change per DWR-provided 2030 climate change factors
	- a. Without projects and management actions, and
	- b. With projects and management actions.

## <span id="page-557-0"></span>**WATER BUDGET ANALYSIS**

The historical water budget and current land use water budget for MWD GSA are presented below following a summary of land use data relevant to water budget development. Land use data is provided for the 1989-2014 historical water budget period and for 2015, the current land use water budget period.

### <span id="page-557-1"></span>**Land Use**

Land use estimates for 1989 through 2015 corresponding to water use sectors (as defined by the GSP Regulations) are summarized in Figure A2.F.d-3 and Table A2.F.d-1 for the MWD GSA. According to GSP Regulations (23 CCR § 351(al)):

*"Water use sector" refers to categories of water demand based on the general land uses to which the water is applied, including urban, industrial, agricultural, managed wetlands, managed recharge, and native vegetation.*

In MWD GSA, water use sectors include agricultural, native vegetation, and urban land use. The urban land use category includes urban and semi-agricultural<sup>[2](#page-557-2)</sup> lands as well as industrial land, which covers only a small area in the subbasin.

As shown, land in MWD is largely agricultural, accounting for over 3,400 acres, or 92 percent, of the total subregion area. Agricultural lands increased between 1989 and the early 2000s, after which a slight decrease in agricultural acreage coincided with expansion of urban lands. This is due in part to urban encroachment and changes in DWR's delineation of urban lands in land use surveys over time. However, since 2011 agricultural acreage has begun to increase as native vegetation has decreased.

<span id="page-557-2"></span> $<sup>2</sup>$  As defined in the DWR county land use surveys, semi-agricultural land use subclasses include farmsteads,</sup> livestock feed lot operations, dairies, poultry farms, and miscellaneous semi-agricultural land use incidental to agriculture (small roads, ditches, non-planted areas of cropped fields (DWR, 2009).

On average, agricultural lands covered an average of approximately 3,400 acres, between 1989 and 2014. During this same period, urban lands and native vegetation averaged approximately 200 acres and 80 acres, respectively.



**Figure A2.F.d-3. Madera Water District GSA Land Use Areas**







<sup>1</sup> Area includes land classified as native vegetation and water surfaces.

<sup>2</sup> Area includes land classified as urban, industrial, and semi-agricultural.

Agricultural land uses are further detailed in Figure A2.F.d-4 and Table A2.F.d-2. Based on historical records, agricultural land in MWD has been comprised entirely of pistachios since the 1960s. However, annual land use areas in MWD GSA were determined using the same procedure and data sources used throughout the Madera Subbasin. This procedure, described in Appendix 2.A., generally estimates annual land use using DWR Land Use surveys in 1995, 2001 and 2011; Land IQ remote sensing-based land use identification in 2014; and the DWR Land Use interpolation tool in other years. Slight divergence from 100 percent pistachio acreage, particularly in the 1990s, may be attributed to interpolation with agricultural land adjacent to the District.



**Figure A2.F.d-4. Madera Water District GSA Agricultural Land Use Areas[3](#page-560-0)**

<span id="page-560-0"></span><sup>3</sup> Based on historical records, agricultural land in MWD has been comprised entirely of pistachios since the 1960s. Slight divergence from 100 percent pistachio acreage, particularly in the 1990s, may be attributed to interpolation with agricultural land adjacent to the District.

<b>Water Year</b>	<b>Citrus and</b>		<b>Grain and</b>			<b>Misc. Field</b>	<b>Misc. Truck</b>		Pasture and	
(Type)	<b>Subtropical</b>	Corn	<b>Hay Crops</b>	<b>Grapes</b>	Idle	<b>Crops</b>	<b>Crops</b>	Orchard <sup>1</sup>	<b>Alfalfa</b>	<b>Total</b>
1989 (C)	6	0	12	11	312	30	$\mathbf 0$	2,763	269	3,402
1990 (C)	6	0	17	11	169	31	0	2,897	284	3,414
1991 (C)	$\overline{7}$	$\mathbf{0}$	12	11	$\overline{71}$	34		2,955	331	3,422
1992 (C)	6	0	16	$\overline{12}$	8	$\overline{31}$	10	3,020	338	3,441
1993 (W)	6	0	17	12	68	30	24	3,058	239	3,455
1994 (C)	6	$\mathbf 0$	16	13	154	$\overline{26}$	96	3,018	144	3,474
1995 (W)	$\overline{3}$	$\overline{0}$	41	14	$\mathbf 0$	24	$\mathbf{0}$	3,415	0	3,497
1996 (W)	$\overline{7}$	50	24	17	0	134	37	3,182	46	3,497
1997 (W)	16	$\mathbf 0$	$\overline{26}$	51		18	79	3,238	70	3,497
1998 (W)	$\overline{2}$	0	16	$\overline{20}$	138	14	23	3,284		3,498
1999 (AN)	0	0	8	36	$\overline{57}$	10	10	3,375	$\overline{2}$	3,498
2000 (AN)		0	26	25	$\mathbf 0$	9		3,434	$\overline{2}$	3,498
2001 (D)	0	$\mathbf 0$	45	$\overline{22}$	$\overline{2}$	9		3,418	$\overline{3}$	3,499
2002 (D)	4	0	$\overline{27}$	$\overline{20}$	$\overline{2}$	5		3,426	$\overline{2}$	3,488
2003 (BN)	$\overline{7}$	0	21	18	$\overline{2}$	$\overline{5}$		3,421	$\overline{2}$	3,476
2004 (D)	9	0	20	16	$\overline{2}$	$\overline{6}$		3,410	$\overline{2}$	3,465
2005 (W)	$\overline{13}$	0	$\overline{22}$	14	$\overline{3}$	4		3,395	$\overline{2}$	3,454
2006 (W)	$\overline{15}$	0	19	$\overline{12}$	13	3	$\mathfrak{Z}$	3,376		3,443
2007 (C)	18		14	11	16	$\overline{2}$	4	3,365		3,432
2008 (C)	$\overline{20}$		14	9	$\overline{14}$	0	$\mathbf 0$	3,361		3,421
2009 (BN)	19	0	10	5	$\overline{22}$	0	$\mathbf 0$	3,352		3,410
2010 (AN)	22	0	11	5	44	0	0	3,317	0	3,399
2011 (W)	$\overline{35}$	$\mathbf{0}$	$\overline{7}$	$\mathbf 0$	0	0	$\mathbf 0$	3,345	$\pmb{0}$	3,388
2012 (D)	$\overline{20}$	$\overline{15}$	5	$\mathbf 0$	$\overline{7}$	0		3,345	$\overline{7}$	3,399
2013 (C)	17	$\overline{16}$	9	$\mathbf 0$	$\overline{18}$	0	$\mathfrak{Z}$	3,345	3	3,411
2014 (C)	$\overline{36}$	$\mathbf 0$	1	0	6	0	0	3,380	0	3,423
2015 (C)	0	0	$\mathbf 0$	$\mathbf 0$	0	0	0	3,399	0	3,399
Average (1989-2014)	12	3	17	14	43	16	11	3,265	67	3,450

*Table A2.F.d-2. Madera Water District GSA Agricultural Land Use Areas*

<sup>1</sup> Based on historical records, agricultural land in MWD has been comprised entirely of pistachios since the 1960s. Slight divergence from 100 percent pistachio acreage, particularly in the 1990s, may be attributed to interpolation with agricultural land adjacent to the District.

### <span id="page-562-0"></span>**Surface Water System Water Budget**

This section presents surface water system water budget components within MWD GSA as per GSP regulations. These are followed by a summary of the water budget results by accounting center.

#### <span id="page-562-1"></span>3.2.1 Inflows

#### <span id="page-562-2"></span>3.2.1.1 Surface Water Inflow by Water Source Type

Surface water inflows include surface water flowing into MWD across the subregion boundary. Per the Regulations, surface inflows must be reported by water source type. According to the Regulations:

*"Water source type" represents the source from which water is derived to meet the applied beneficial uses, including groundwater, recycled water, reused water, and surface water sources identified as Central Valley Project, the State Water Project, the Colorado River Project, local supplies, and local imported supplies.*

Additionally, runoff of precipitation from upgradient areas adjacent to the subregion represents a potential source of surface water inflow.

#### Local Supplies

Surface water inflows to MWD GSA include local supplies along Dry Creek.

#### CVP Supplies

MWD GSA receives surface water supplies from MID for irrigation purposes. All surface water delivered to MWD is initially diverted into the MID conveyance system and then routed to Dry Creek, where it is released and then received by MWD through a metered pipeline. The source type of this water is unknown, although the majority of water received by MID during deliveries to MWD is CVP supply.

#### Recycling and Reuse

Recycling and reuse are not a significant source of supply within MWD.

#### Other Surface Inflows

For the water budgets presented herein, precipitation runoff from outside the subregion is considered relatively minimal and is expected to pass through the waterways accounted above following relatively large storm events. Precipitation runoff from lands inside the subregion is internal to the surface water system and is thus not considered as surface inflows to the subregion boundary.

#### Summary of Surface Inflows

The surface water inflows described above are summarized by water source type in Figure A2.F.d-5 and Table A2.F.d-3. During the study period, local supplies vary by water year type, averaging 6 taf during wet years and less than 1 taf during all other year types. CVP supplies are steadier between years, averaging 2 taf per year between 1989 and 2014.



**Figure A2.F.d-5. Madera Water District GSA Surface Water Inflows by Water Source Type.**







1CVP Supply is considered as all water supply released from CVP storage facilities. The volume of CVP Supply includes CVP deliveries to CVP contractors/water users, and flood releases from CVP facilities that largely pass through the subbasin.

### <span id="page-564-0"></span>3.2.1.2 Precipitation

Precipitation estimates for MWD GSA are provided in Figure A2.F.d-6 and Table A2.F.d-4. Precipitation estimates are reported by water use sector.

Total precipitation is variable between years in the study area, ranging from approximately 2.7 taf (7.6 inches) during average dry years to 4.5 taf (14.4 inches) during average wet years.

#### <span id="page-564-1"></span>3.2.1.3 Groundwater Extraction by Water Use Sector

Groundwater extraction by water use sector is provided in Figure A2.F.d-7 and Table A2.F.d-5. For agricultural and urban (urban, semi-agricultural, industrial) lands, groundwater extraction represents pumping, while for native lands, groundwater extraction by riparian vegetation was considered to be negligible. In the agricultural water use sector, groundwater extraction is equal to groundwater pump meter records available between 1993-2015. Groundwater extraction in all other years and in the urban water use sector was estimated as the water use sector water budget closure term.

As indicated in Figure 6, groundwater extraction is dominated by irrigated agriculture, varying from year to year based on variability in metered surface water supplies.



**Figure A2.F.d-6. Madera Water District GSA Precipitation by Water Use Sector.**

<b>Water Year (Type)</b>	<b>Agricultural</b>	<b>Native Vegetation</b>	<b>Urban</b>	<b>Total</b>
1989 (C)	3,421	180	133	3,734
1990 (C)	3,200	158	120	3,478
1991 (C)	3,352	164	121	3,637
1992 (C)	2,754	123	95	2,972
1993 (W)	4,683	194	157	5,034
1994 (C)	2,668	102	83	2,853
1995 (W)	5,762	187	174	6,123
1996 (W)	3,521	112	108	3,741
(W) 1997	4,022	125	126	4,273
1998 (W)	4,838	144	156	5,138
1999 (AN)	1,963	58	64	2,085
2000 (AN)	3,199	91	107	3,397
2001 (D)	2,983	85	104	3,172
2002 (D)	2,702	73	102	2,877
2003 (BN)	2,367	64	97	2,528
2004 (D)	1,962	51	87	2,100
2005 (W)	3,375	89	158	3,622
2006 (W)	3,710	94	187	3,991
2007 (C)	1,498	38	80	1,616
2008 (C)	2,272	56	129	2,457
2009 (BN)	2,047	49	122	2,218
2010 (AN)	3,505	84	221	3,810
2011 (W)	3,662	86	242	3,990
2012 (D)	1,250	26	81	1,357

*Table- A2.F.d-4. Madera Water District GSA Precipitation by Water Use Sector (Acre-Feet).*





**Figure A2.F.d-7. Madera Water District GSA Groundwater Extraction by Water Use Sector.**







1Although urban groundwater pumping records are not available, there is only one known domestic well within MWD. Thus, urban groundwater extraction estimates resulting from the water budget closure may be high.

#### <span id="page-567-0"></span>3.2.1.4 Groundwater Discharge to Surface Water Sources

The depth to groundwater is greater than 100-200 ft across much of the Madera Subbasin. Given the depth to the water table in the Madera Subbasin, groundwater discharge to surface water sources is negligible.

### <span id="page-567-1"></span>3.2.2 Outflows

#### <span id="page-567-2"></span>3.2.2.1 Evapotranspiration by Water Use Sector

Evapotranspiration (ET) by water use sector is reported in Figures A2.F.d-8 to A2.F.d-10 and Tables A2.F.d-6 to A2.F.d-8. First, total ET is reported, followed by ET from applied water and ET from precipitation.

Total ET varies between years, with the lowest observed in 1989, at approximately 10 taf, and the greatest observed in 2004, at approximately 12 taf.

In addition to ET from land surfaces, estimates of evaporation from rivers and streams are reported in Figure A2.F.d-11 and Table A2.F.d-9. Evaporation from the Rivers and Streams System includes evaporation of both surface inflows and of precipitation runoff within local sloughs and depressions. Evaporation from the rivers and streams follows the pattern of typical surface water inflows, but is estimated to be less than 1 taf during all years. Because the MWD conveyance system is a pipeline, evaporation from the Conveyance System is considered negligible.



**Figure A2.F.d-8. Madera Water District GSA Evapotranspiration by Water Use Sector.**

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<b>Water Year (Type)</b>	<b>Agricultural</b>	<b>Native Vegetation</b>	<b>Urban</b>	<b>Total</b>			
1989 (C)	9,243	130	155	9,528			
1990 (C)	9,690	123	156	9,969			
1991 (C)	9,811	108	131	10,050			
1992 (C)	10,982	112	153	11,247			
1993 (W)	10,534	113	145	10,792			
1994 (C)	10,133	78	132	10,343			
1995 (W)	9,985	94	115	10,194			
1996 (W)	10,826	87	128	11,041			
1997 (W)	11,016	71	140	11,227			
1998 (W)	9,578	76	124	9,778			
1999 (AN)	10,167	57	128	10,352			
2000 (AN)	10,558	64	139	10,761			
2001 (D)	10,878	67	139	11,084			
2002 (D)	11,017	62	164	11,243			
2003 (BN)	10,775	52	169	10,996			
2004 (D)	11,655	52	203	11,910			
2005 (W)	10,451	63	186	10,700			
2006 (W)	10,701	67	202	10,970			
2007 (C)	10,717	41	209	10,967			
2008 (C)	10,997	47	243	11,287			
2009 (BN)	10,949	40	246	11,235			
2010 (AN)	10,069	58	233	10,360			
2011 (W)	10,132	58	245	10,435			

*Table A2.F.d-6. Madera Water District GSA Evapotranspiration by Water Use Sector (Acre-Feet).*





**Figure A2.F.d-9. Madera Water District GSA Evapotranspiration of Applied Water by Water Use Sector.**

*Table A2.F.d-7. Madera Water District GSA Evapotranspiration of Applied Water by Water Use Sector (Acre-Feet).*

<b>Water Year (Type)</b>	<b>Agricultural</b>	<b>Native Vegetation</b>	<b>Urban</b>	<b>Total</b>
1989 (C)	7,135		71	7,206
1990 (C)	7,428	0	73	7,501
1991 (C)	7,997	0	63	8,060
1992 (C)	8,995		77	9,072
1993 (W)	7,824	0	64	7,888
1994 (C)	8,169	0	70	8,239
1995 (W)	6,851		40	6,891
1996 (W)	8,356	0	46	8,402
1997 (W)	8,946	0	68	9,014
1998 (W)	6,787	0	54	6,841









### *Table A2.F.d-8. Madera Water District GSA Evapotranspiration of Precipitation by Water Use Sector (Acre-Feet).*



**Figure A2.F.d-11. Madera Water District GSA Evaporation from the Surface Water System.**







<sup>1</sup> Includes evaporation of surface inflows and of precipitation runoff.

#### <span id="page-573-0"></span>3.2.2.2 Surface Water Outflow by Water Source Type

Surface water outflows by water source type are summarized in Figure A2.F.d-12 and Table A2.F.d-10. In MWD GSA, all CVP supplies are delivered to MWD agricultural lands to meet consumptive use requirements. Additionally, runoff of applied water is assumed negligible and runoff of precipitation is collected in waterways, completely reentering the groundwater system through infiltration except during the largest storm events. Thus, surface outflows primarily from local supplies, or natural flows, along Dry Creek are expected to leave the subregion. These outflows are significantly higher in wet years, averaging approximately 5.7 taf during wet years and less than 1 taf during below all other year types.



**Figure A2.F.d-12. Madera Water District GSA Surface Outflows by Water Source Type.**



### *Table A2.F.d-10. Madera Water District GSA Surface Outflows by Water Source Type (Acre-*

### <span id="page-574-0"></span>3.2.2.3 Infiltration of Precipitation

Estimated infiltration of precipitation (deep percolation of precipitation) by water use sector is provided in Figure A2.F.d-13 and Table A2.F.d-11. Infiltration of precipitation to the groundwater system is variable from year to year due to variation in the timing and amount of precipitation, ranging from less than 0.3 taf during some critical and dry years to more than 2.1 taf during 1995.



**Figure A2.F.d-13. Madera Water District GSA Infiltration of Precipitation by Water Use Sector.**

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<b>Water Year (Type)</b>	Agricultural	<b>Native Vegetation</b>	Urban	<b>Total</b>				
1989 (C)	1,050	38	31	1,119				
1990 (C)	833	28	27	888				
1991 (C)	1,276	48	35	1,359				
1992 (C)	703	15	19	737				
1993 (W)	1,598	58	47	1,703				
1994 (C)	589	16	18	623				
1995 (W)	1,984	73	53	2,110				
1996 (W)	1,043	28	30	1,101				
1997 (W)	1,580	51	48	1,679				
1998 (W)	1,700	49	51	1,800				
1999 (AN)	435	9	17	461				
2000 (AN)	791	17	23	831				
2001 (D)	728	12	20	760				
2002 (D)	695	9	23	727				
2003 (BN)	481	8	20	509				
2004 (D)	394	4	15	413				
2005 (W)	742	14	33	789				
2006 (W)	1,038	17	47	1,102				
2007 (C)	289	3	18	310				
2008 (C)	489	6	23	518				
2009 (BN)	357	3	21	381				
2010 (AN)	827	18	54	899				
2011 (W)	935	19	63	1,017				

*Table A2.F.d-11. Madera Water District GSA Infiltration of Precipitation by Water Use Sector (Acre-Feet).*


## 3.2.2.4 Infiltration of Surface Water

Estimated infiltration of surface water (seepage) by source is provided in Figure A2.F.d-14 and Table A2.F.d-12. Seepage from the Rivers and Streams System includes seepage of both surface inflows and of precipitation runoff into local sloughs and depressions. Seepage from rivers and streams is provides an average of 0.4 taf per year to the groundwater system. Because the MWD conveyance system is a pipeline, seepage from the Conveyance System is considered negligible.



**Figure A2.F.d-14. Madera Water District GSA Infiltration of Surface Water.**



#### *Table A2.F.d-12. Madera Water District GSA Infiltration of Surface Water (Acre-Feet).*

<sup>1</sup> Includes infiltration of surface inflows and of precipitation runoff.

#### 3.2.2.5 Infiltration of Applied Water

Estimated infiltration of applied water (deep percolation of applied water) by water use sector is provided in Figure A2.F.d-15 and Table A2.F.d-13. Infiltration of applied water is dominated by agricultural irrigation. The annual fluctuations are primarily a result calculating deep percolation of applied water as the closure term of the agricultural lands water budget between 1993 and 2015, when annual groundwater pumping data was available from the MWD Groundwater Management Plan. As the closure term, all errors in the other water budget terms are manifested in the infiltration of applied water. For example, the very low volumes in 1999 and 2007 could be the result of problems with one or two of the groundwater pumping meters under reporting.



**Figure A2.F.d-15. Madera Water District GSA Infiltration of Applied Water by Water Use Sector.**

<b>Water Year (Type)</b>	<b>Agricultural</b>	<b>Native Vegetation</b>	<b>Urban</b>	<b>Total</b>
1989 (C)	2,524	0	28	2,552
1990 (C)	2,244	0	23	2,267
1991 (C)	2,691	0	27	2,718
1992 (C)	2,361	0	23	2,384
1993 (W)	1,222	0	29	1,251
1994 (C)	1,515	0	17	1,532
1995 (W)	1,571	0	22	1,593
1996 (W)	395	0	13	408
1997 (W)	1,048	0	32	1,080
1998 (W)	768	0	28	796
1999 (AN)	110	0	13	123
2000 (AN)	993	0	22	1,015
2001 (D)	413	0	19	432
2002 <sub>(D)</sub>	561	0	25	586
2003 (BN)	769	0	24	793
2004 (D)	860	0	27	887
2005 (W)	193	0	34	227
2006 (W)	544	0	25	569
2007 (C)	97	0	26	123
2008 (C)	433	0	37	470
2009 (BN)	1,050	0	33	1,083
2010 (AN)	1,328	0	35	1,363
2011 (W)	1,284	0	33	1,317

*Table A2.F.d-13. Madera Water District GSA Infiltration of Applied Water by Water Use Sector (Acre-Feet).*



## 3.2.3 Change in Surface Water System Storage

Estimates of change in SWS storage are provided in Figure A2.F.d-16 and Table A2.F.d-14. Inter-annual changes in storage within the surface water system consist primarily of root zone soil moisture storage changes, are relatively small, and tend to average near zero over many years. The large estimated change in SWS storage in 2007 is the result of uncertainty in the deep percolation of applied water closure term, when change in SWS storage was adjusted to improve deep percolation estimates.



**Figure A2.F.d-16. Madera Water District GSA Change in Surface Water System Storage.**



# *Table A2.F.d-14. Madera Water District GSA Change in Surface Water System Storage (Acre-*

# **Historical Water Budget Summary**

Annual inflows, outflows, and change in SWS storage during the historical water budget period (1989- 2014) are summarized in Figure A2.F.d-17 and Table A2.F.d-15. Inflows are shown as positive values, while outflows and change in SWS storage are shown as negative values. Review of the variability in component volumes across years provides insight into the impacts of hydrology on the surface water system water budget.



**Figure A2.F.d-17. Madera Water District GSA Surface Water System Historical Water Budget, 1989-2014.**





1Includes ET of applied water, ET of precipitation, and evaporation from rivers and streams.

#### **Current Water Budget Summary**  $3.4$

The current water budget was developed following a similar process to the historical water budget using the 2015 land use in Table A2.F.d-1 and the same 1989-2014 average hydrologic conditions of the historical base period, including surface water flows, precipitation, and weather parameters. This allowed quantification of groundwater inflows and outflows for current consumptive use in the context of average water supply conditions.

Annual inflows, outflows, and change in SWS storage from the current water budget are summarized in Figure A2.F.d-18 and Table A2.F.d-16. Inflows are shown as positive values, while outflows and change in SWS storage are shown as negative values.



**Figure A2.F.d-18. Madera Water District GSA Surface Water System Current Water Budget.**

	<b>Boundary</b>							<b>Boundary</b>	Change in
<b>Water Year</b>	<b>Surface</b>	Groundwater		Evapo-	Infil. of	Infil. of	Infil. of	<b>Surface</b>	<b>SWS</b>
(Type)	<b>Inflows</b>	<b>Extraction</b>	Precipitation	transpiration <sup>1</sup>	Precipitation	<b>Surface Water</b>	<b>Applied Water</b>	<b>Outflows</b>	<b>Storage</b>
1989 (C)	850	9,998	3,732	$-10,568$	$-1,094$	$-164$	$-2,795$	0	42
1990 (C)	850	9,718	3,479	$-10,650$	$-869$	$-208$	$-2,285$	0	$-35$
1991 (C)	,258	10,515	3,635	$-10,563$	$-1,305$	$-503$	$-2,737$	$-212$	$-89$
1992 (C)	,046	10,539	2,971	$-11,578$	$-712$	$-335$	$-2,234$	$-3$	305
1993 (W)	5,988	8,167	5,033	$-11,192$	$-1,661$	$-900$	$-1,127$	$-4,441$	133
1994 (C)	995	9,116	2,852	$-10,860$	$-603$	$-76$	$-1,282$	0	$-142$
1995 (W)	7,043	7,068	6,122	$-10,194$	$-2,094$	$-984$	$-1,673$	$-5,386$	98
1996 (W)	3,517	7,573	3,741	$-11,075$	$-1,078$	$-507$	$-541$	$-1,487$	$-143$
$\overline{1997}$ (W)	14,022	7,225	4,275	$-11,258$	$-1,670$	$-916$	$-1,269$	$-10,223$	$-186$
1998 (W)	15,617	4,851	5,139	$-10,057$	$-1,790$	$-989$	$-783$	$-12,173$	184
1999 (AN)	2,244	6,888	2,084	$-10,410$	$-458$	$-4$	$-274$	0	$-70$
2000 (AN)	5,236	5,671	3,398	$-10,720$	$-827$	$-561$	$-1,088$	$-1,283$	175
2001 (D)	1,459	7,920	3,170	$-11,036$	$-752$	$-133$	$-653$	$-2$	26
2002 (D)	1,652	8,221	2,877	$-11,194$	$-724$	$-114$	$-788$	$-4$	$\overline{75}$
2003 (BN)	2,881	7,228	2,528	$-10,952$	$-509$	$-39$	$-905$	$-3$	$-230$
2004 (D)	2,715	8,580	2,100	$-11,877$	$-413$	$-15$	$-1,097$	$-2$	10
2005 (W)	7,796	4,945	3,623	$-10,727$	$-785$	$-696$	$-303$	$-4,053$	201
2006 (W)	8,595	4,966	3,991	$-11,032$	$-1,101$	$-834$	$-601$	$-4,049$	65
2007 (C)	1,187	8,042	1,616	$-11,014$	$-310$	$-7$	496	$-1$	$-10$
2008 (C)	2,006	8,331	2,456	$-11,346$	$-520$	$-109$	$-536$	$-1$	$-281$
2009 (BN)	2,152	8,355	2,219	$-11,329$	$-383$	$-23$	$-1,066$	0	75
2010 (AN)	3,391	5,841	3,810	$-10,522$	$-899$	$-347$	$-1,296$	$-131$	153
2011 (W)	9,610	4,272	3,988	$-10,540$	$-1,016$	$-833$	$-1,264$	$-4,053$	$-163$
2012(D)	2,436	7,680	1,357	$-10,533$	$-260$	$-36$	$-697$	$-1$	53
2013 (C)	2,760	7,603	2,293	$-10,730$	$-524$	$-37$	$-1,396$	$-1$	31
2014 (C)	2,064	9,064	1,120	$-10,030$	$-213$	$-4$	$-1,896$	$-1$	$-105$
Average	4,207				$-868$	$-360$			$\overline{7}$
$(1989 - 2014)$		7,630	3,216	$-10,846$			$-1,157$	$-1,827$	
W	9,024	6,133	4,489	$-10,760$	$-1,399$	$-832$	$-945$	$-5,733$	23
<b>AN</b>	3,624	6,133	3,098	$-10,551$	$-728$	$-304$	$-886$	$-471$	86
BN	2,516	7,792	2,373	$-11,141$	$-446$	$-31$	$-985$	$-1$	$-77$
D	2,065	8,100	2,376	$-11,160$	$-537$	$-74$	$-809$	$-2$	41
C $-+$	,446	9,214	2,684	$-10,816$	$-683$	$-160$	$-1,629$	$-24$	$-32$

*Table A2.F.d-16. Madera Water District GSA Surface Water System Current Water Budget (Acre-Feet).*

1Includes ET of applied water, ET of precipitation, and evaporation from rivers and streams.

# **Net Recharge from SWS**

Overdraft is defined in DWR Bulletin 118 as "the condition of a groundwater basin or subbasin in which the amount of water withdrawn by pumping exceeds the amount of water that recharges the basin over a period of years, during which the water supply conditions approximate average conditions" (DWR 2003). The Madera Subbasin water budget indicates that overdraft conditions occurred during the 1989-2014 historical base period. Per 23 CCR Section 354.18(b)(5), the subbasin overdraft has been quantified for this base period. The evaluation of overdraft conditions includes estimates of recharge from subsurface flows. However, estimates of recharge from subsurface flows are less accurate when estimated for areas less than an entire subbasin. Thus, for estimates of GSA level contribution to overdraft, the term net recharge from the SWS, is defined as groundwater recharge minus groundwater extraction. Net recharge from the SWS is useful for understanding and analyzing the combined effects of land surface processes on the underlying GWS.

When calculated from the historical water budget, average net recharge from the SWS represents the average recharge (when positive) or shortage of recharge (when negative) based on historical cropping, land use practices, and average hydrologic conditions. When calculated from the current land use water budget, average net recharge represents the average recharge or shortage (negative net recharge) based on current cropping, land use practices, and average hydrologic conditions.

Average net recharge from the SWS is presented below for the MWD GSA portion of the Madera Subbasin. Table A2.F.d-17 shows the average net recharge from the SWS for 1989-2014 based on the historical water budget, and Table A2.F.d-18 shows the same for the current water budget. Historically, the average net recharge in MWD GSA was approximately -5.1 taf per year between 1989 and 2014. Under current land use conditions, the average net recharge in MWD GSA is approximately -5.2 taf, indicating that groundwater extraction exceeds recharge from the surface water system.

Year Type	<b>Number</b> of Years	<b>Infiltration</b> of Applied Water (a)	Infiltration of Precipitation (b)	Infiltration of <b>Surface Water</b> (c)	Groundwater Extraction (d)	<b>Net Recharge</b> from SWS $(a+b+c-d)$
W	8	905	1,413	826	6,042	$-2,899$
AN	3	834	730	284	6,042	$-4,193$
<b>BN</b>	2	938	445	32	7,720	$-6,305$
D	4	647	540	75	7,963	$-6,701$
C	9	1,700	699	170	8,882	$-6,313$
Annual Average $(1989 - 2014)$	26	1,135	878	360	7,450	$-5,077$

*Table A2.F.d-17. Historical Water Budget: Average Net Recharge from SWS by Water Year Type, 1989-2014 (Acre-Feet).*





## **Uncertainties in Water Budget Components**

Uncertainties associated with each water budget component were estimated as a percentage representing approximately a 95% confidence interval following the procedure described by Clemmens and Burt (1997). Uncertainties for all independently measured or estimated water budget components were estimated based on the measurement accuracy, typical values reported in technical literature, typical values calculated in other water budgets, and professional judgement.

Table A2.F.d-19 provides a summary of typical uncertainty values associated with major SWS inflow and outflow components. These uncertainties provide a basis for evaluating confidence in water budget results and help to identify data needs that may be addressed during GSP implementation.

Flowpath <b>Direction</b> (SWS Boundary)	<b>Water Budget</b> Component	<b>Data Source</b>	<b>Estimated</b> <b>Uncertainty</b> $(\%)$	<b>Source</b>
	Surface Water Inflows	Calculation	20%	Estimated streamflow measurement accuracy and adjustment for losses.
	<b>Deliveries</b>	Measurement	6%	Estimated delivery measurement accuracy (accuracy required for Reclamation contractors)
Inflows	Precipitation	Calculation	30%	Clemmens, A.J. and C.M. Burt, 1997.
	Groundwater Extraction	Closure	20%	Typical uncertainty calculated for Land Surface System water balance closure; Estimated accuracy of groundwater pumping measurements.
	Surface Water Outflows	Closure	20%	Estimated streamflow measurement accuracy and adjustment for losses.
	Evaporation	Calculation	20%	Estimated accuracy of calculation based on CIMIS reference ET and free water surface evaporation coefficient.
<b>Outflows</b>	ET of Applied Water	Calculation	10%	Estimated accuracy of daily IDC root zone water budget component based on CIMIS reference ET, estimated crop coefficients from SEBAL energy balance, and annual land use.
	ET of Precipitation	Calculation	10%	Estimated accuracy of daily IDC root zone water budget component based on CIMIS reference ET, precipitation, estimated crop coefficients from SEBAL energy balance, and annual land use.
	Infiltration of <b>Applied Water</b>	Calculation	20%	Typical uncertainty calculated for Land Surface System water balance closure; Estimated accuracy of daily IDC root zone water budget component based on annual land use and NRCS soils characteristics.
	Infiltration of Precipitation	Calculation	20%	Estimated accuracy of daily IDC root zone water budget component based on annual land use, NRCS soils characteristics, and CIMIS precipitation.
	Infiltration of Surface Water	Calculation	15%	Estimated accuracy of daily seepage calculation using NRCS soils characteristics and measured streamflow data.
	Change in SWS Storage	Calculation	50%	Professional Judgment.
Net Recharge from SWS		Calculation	25%	Estimated water budget accuracy; typical value calculated for GSA-level net recharge from SWS.

*Table A2.F.d-19. Estimated Uncertainty of GSA Water Budget Components.*

# **APPENDIX 2.F. WATER BUDGET INFORMATION**

# **2.F.e. Surface Water System Water Budget: Gravelly Ford Water District GSA**

Prepared as part of the **Joint Groundwater Sustainability Plan Madera Subbasin**

January 2020

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#### <span id="page-592-0"></span>**INTRODUCTION** 1

To ensure sustainable groundwater management throughout California's groundwater basins, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA) requires Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to prepare and adopt Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) with strategies to achieve subbasin groundwater sustainability within 20 years of plan adoption. Integral to each GSP is a water budget used to quantify the subbasin's groundwater overdraft (if applicable) and sustainable yield.

In 2017, Gravelly Ford Water District (GFWD) GSA formed to manage approximately 8,400 acres of the Madera Subbasin. This document presents results of the surface water system (SWS) water budgets developed for historical and current land use conditions in GFWD GSA. The GFWD GSA water budgets were integrated with separate water budgets developed for the other six (6) GSAs in Madera Subbasin to prepare a boundary water budget for the Madera Subbasin SWS. Results of the subbasin boundary water budget are reported in the Madera Subbasin GSP Section 2.2.3 and were integrated with a subbasin groundwater model (GSP Appendix 6.D) to estimate subbasin sustainable yield (GSP Section 2.2.3).

#### <span id="page-592-1"></span>**WATER BUDGET CONCEPTUAL MODEL**  $\mathbf{2}$

A water budget is defined as a complete accounting of all water flowing into and out of a defined volume (e.g., a subbasin or a GSA) over a specified period of time. The conceptual model (or structure) of the GFWD GSA water budget developed for this investigation is consistent with the GSP Regulations defined under Title 23 of California Code of Regulations<sup>[1](#page-592-2)</sup> (CCR) and adheres to sound water budget principles and practices defined by California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in the Water Budget Best Management Practice (BMP) guidelines (DWR, 2016).

The lateral extent of GFWD GSA is defined by the boundaries indicated in Figure A2.F.e-1. The vertical extent of GFWD GSA is the land surface (top) and the base of fresh water at the bottom of the basin (bottom), as described in the hydrogeologic conceptual model (HCM) developed in GSP Section 2.2.1. The vertical extent of Madera Subbasin and its GSAs is subdivided into a surface water system (SWS) and the underlying groundwater system (GWS), with separate but related water budgets prepared for each that together represent the overall subbasin water budget.

A conceptual representation of the GFWD GSA water budget is represented in Figure A2.F.e-2. This document details only the SWS portion of the GFWD GSA water budget. The SWS is divided into three primary accounting centers: the Land Surface System, the Rivers and Streams System, and the Canal System. The Land Surface System is further divided into three accounting centers representing GFWD GSA's water use sectors: Agricultural Land, Native Vegetation Land, and Urban Land (urban, industrial, and semi-agricultural).

Water budget components, or directional flow of water between accounting centers and across the SWS boundary, are indicated by arrows. Inflows and outflows were calculated using measurements and other historical data or were calculated as the water budget closure term – the difference between all other estimated or measured inflows and outflows from each accounting center or water use sector (bold arrows).

<span id="page-592-2"></span><sup>1</sup> California Code of Regulations Title 23. Waters, Division 2. Department of Water Resources, Chapter 1.5. Groundwater Management, Subchapter 2. Groundwater Sustainability Plans.



**Figure A2.F.e-1. Madera Subbasin GSAs Map** 



**Figure A2.F.e-2. Gravelly Ford Water District GSA Water Budget Structure**

Inflows to the SWS include precipitation, surface water inflows (in various canals and streams), and groundwater extraction. Outflows from the SWS include evapotranspiration (ET), surface water outflows (in various canals and streams), and infiltration to the groundwater system (seepage and deep percolation). Also represented in Figure A2.F.e-2 are inflows and outflows from the GWS, which are discussed and quantified at the subbasin level in the GWS water budget in GSP Section 2.2.3. Subsurface GWS inflows and outflows are not quantified on the water budget subregion scale.

Inflows and outflows were quantified following the process described in GSP Section 2.2.3 on a monthly time step for water years in the historical water budget base period (1989-2014 hydrologic and land use conditions), the current water budget (2015 land use using 1989-2014 average hydrologic conditions), and projected water budget. Four projected water budgets were prepared for the years 2019 through 2090 based on 1965 through 2015 hydrologic conditions:

- 1. Historical hydrologic conditions
	- a. Without projects and management actions, and
	- b. With projects and management actions
- 2. Historical hydrologic conditions adjusted for anticipated climate change per DWR-provided 2030 climate change factors
	- a. Without projects and management actions, and
	- b. With projects and management actions.

# <span id="page-595-0"></span>**WATER BUDGET ANALYSIS**

The historical water budget and current land use water budget for GFWD GSA are presented below following a summary of land use data relevant to water budget development. Land use data is provided for the 1989-2014 historical water budget period and for 2015, the current land use water budget period.

# <span id="page-595-1"></span>**Land Use**

Land use estimates for 1989 through 2015 corresponding to water use sectors (as defined by the GSP Regulations) are summarized in Figure A2.F.e-3 and Table A2.F.e-1 for GFWD GSA. According to GSP Regulations (23 CCR § 351(al)):

*"Water use sector" refers to categories of water demand based on the general land uses to which the water is applied, including urban, industrial, agricultural, managed wetlands, managed recharge, and native vegetation.*

In GFWD GSA, water use sectors include agricultural, native vegetation, and urban land use. The urban land use category includes urban and semi-agricultural<sup>[2](#page-595-2)</sup> lands as well as industrial land, which covers only a small area in the subbasin.

As indicated, the majority of land in GFWD GSA is used for agriculture, covering an average of approximately 7,600 acres between 1989 and 2014. Agricultural lands remained generally constant between 1989 and 2001, after which a slight decrease in agricultural acreage coincided with expansion of areas classified as native vegetation and water surfaces. Urban lands covered approximately 700 acres between 1989 and 2014.

<span id="page-595-2"></span> $<sup>2</sup>$  As defined in the DWR county land use surveys, semi-agricultural land use subclasses include farmsteads,</sup> livestock feed lot operations, dairies, poultry farms, and miscellaneous semi-agricultural land use incidental to agriculture (small roads, ditches, non-planted areas of cropped fields (DWR, 2009).



**Figure A2.F.e-3. Gravelly Ford Water District GSA Land Use Areas**

Tubic Aziric-I. Gruvcity Ford Watch District and Land Osc Arcas, acres									
<b>Water Year (Type)</b>	<b>Agricultural</b>	Native Vegetation <sup>1</sup>	Urban <sup>2</sup>	<b>Total</b>					
1989 (C)	7,559	108	712	8,379					
1990 (C)	7,558	105	716	8,379					
1991 (C)	7,564	103	712	8,379					
1992 (C)	7,573	98	707	8,379					
1993 (W)	7,583	94	702	8,379					
1994 (C)	7,593	86	700	8,379					
1995 (W)	7,601	81	696	8,379					
1996 (W)	7,604	82	694	8,379					
1997 (W)	7,606	82	691	8,379					
1998 (W)	7,608	82	688	8,379					
1999 (AN)	7,611	82	686	8,379					
2000 (AN)	7,613	83	683	8,379					
2001 (D)	7,615	83	681	8,379					
2002 (D)	7,601	106	673	8,379					
2003 (BN)	7,586	128	665	8,379					
2004 (D)	7,571	151	657	8,379					
2005 (W)	7,556	174	650	8,379					

*Table A2.F.e-1. Gravelly Ford Water District GSA Land Use Areas, acres*



<sup>1</sup> Area includes land classified as native vegetation and water surfaces.

<sup>2</sup> Area includes land classified as urban, industrial, and semi-agricultural.

Agricultural land uses are further detailed in Figure A2.F.e-4 and Table A2.F.e-2. Historically, a majority of the agricultural area in GFWD has been comprised of permanent crops, such as grapes and orchard crops. While grape acreage has decreased since peaking in 2000, orchard acreage more than doubled between 1989 and 2015.



**Figure A2.F.e-4. Gravelly Ford Water District GSA Agricultural Land Use Areas**

<b>Water Year</b>	<b>Citrus and</b>		<b>Grain and</b>			<b>Misc. Field</b>	<b>Misc. Truck</b>		<b>Pasture and</b>	
(Type)	<b>Subtropical</b>	Corn	<b>Hay Crops</b>	<b>Grapes</b>	Idle	<b>Crops</b>	<b>Crops</b>	Orchard	<b>Alfalfa</b>	<b>Total</b>
1989 (C)		42	60	3,990	670	573	146	1,325	752	7,559
1990 (C)		41	84	4,013	421	608	258	1,370	760	7,558
1991 (C)	$\overline{2}$	42	61	4,106	244	675	235	1,410	789	7,564
1992 (C)	$\overline{2}$	$\overline{51}$	78	4,269	146	651	221	1,447	709	7,573
1993 (W)	$\overline{2}$	59	80	4,338	179	659	209	1,483	574	7,583
1994 (C)	$\overline{2}$	66	77	4,520	161	625	195	.517	430	7,593
1995 (W)	$\overline{2}$	103	189	4,567	84	603	137	1,575	341	7,601
1996 (W)	3	243	119	4,618	49	545	123	1,513	392	7,604
1997 (W)	$\overline{6}$	248	136	4,659	79	434	120	1,478	447	7,606
1998 (W)	$\overline{2}$	401	90	4,702	110	327	102	1,427	448	7,608
1999 (AN)		505	44	4,802	97	242	75	.383	461	7,611
2000 (AN)	$\overline{3}$	563	160	4,833	6	206	44	1,336	462	7,613
2001 (D)	3	608	286	4,714	68	185	26	1,288	439	7,615
2002 (D)	$\overline{3}$	574	198	4,750	64	122	55	1,431	402	7,601
2003 (BN)	$\overline{2}$	531	172	4,647	66	125	89	1,590	365	7,586
2004 (D)	$\overline{2}$	478	187	4,549	61	142	115	.709	327	7,571
2005 (W)	$\overline{2}$	405	246	4,468	79	125	141	1,800	290	7,556
2006 (W)		367	244	4,294	133	93	179	1,976	253	7,541
2007 (C)		350	219	4,268	85	66	199	2,121	215	7,526
2008 (C)		371	280	4,200	70	18	124	2,269	178	7,511
2009 (BN)	0	124	259	4,021	321	3	235	2,392	141	7,496
2010 (AN)	0	73	372	3,805	71	$\overline{35}$	261	2,759	104	7,481
2011 (W)	0	$\mathbf 0$	388	3,584	5	89	287	3,046	66	7,466
2012 (D)	$\pmb{0}$	13	318	3,550	10	122	377	3,023	57	7,470
2013 (C)	0	9	318	3,515	14	64	468	3,058	28	7,475
2014 (C)	$\pmb{0}$	0	36	3,481	6	395	496	3,060	$\,6\,$	7,480
2015 (C)	$\mathbf 0$	0	$\overline{21}$	3,532	3	89	833	3,018	$\overline{6}$	7,503
Average 1989-2014)	$\overline{2}$	241	181	4,279	127	297	189	1,876	363	7,556

*Table A2.F.e-2. Gravelly Ford Water District GSA Agricultural Land Use Areas*

# <span id="page-599-0"></span>**Surface Water System Water Budget**

This section presents surface water system water budget components within GFWD GSA as per GSP regulations. These are followed by a summary of the water budget results by accounting center.

### <span id="page-599-1"></span>3.2.1 Inflows

#### <span id="page-599-2"></span>3.2.1.1 Surface Water Inflow by Water Source Type

Surface water inflows include surface water flowing into GFWD across the subregion boundary. Per the Regulations, surface inflows must be reported by water source type. According to the Regulations:

*"Water source type" represents the source from which water is derived to meet the applied beneficial uses, including groundwater, recycled water, reused water, and surface water sources identified as Central Valley Project, the State Water Project, the Colorado River Project, local supplies, and local imported supplies.*

Additionally, runoff of precipitation from upgradient areas adjacent to the subregion represents a potential source of surface water inflow.

#### Local Supplies

Surface water inflows to GFWD GSA include local supplies of Cottonwood Creek natural flows. A portion of these flows are diverted into the GFWD conveyance system, while the remainder transverses and leaves the GSA as surface water outflows.

#### Local Imported Supplies

GFWD GSA does not receive local imported supplies for irrigation purposes.

#### CVP Supplies

GFWD GSA receives CVP supplies for irrigation purposes from the San Joaquin River and from the Madera Canal via MID. A portion of CVP supplies received via MID are diverted from MID's releases to Cottonwood Creek, while the remainder is received directly from the MID conveyance system.

#### Recycling and Reuse

Recycling and reuse are not a significant source of supply within GFWD.

#### **Other Surface Inflows**

For the water budgets presented herein, precipitation runoff from outside the subregion is considered relatively minimal and is expected to pass through the waterways accounted above following relatively large storm events. Precipitation runoff from lands inside the subregion is internal to the surface water system and is thus not considered as surface inflows to the subregion boundary.

#### Summary of Surface Inflows

The surface water inflows described above are summarized by water source type in Figure A2.F.e-5 and Table A2.F.e-3. During the study period, local supplies vary by water year type, averaging 14 taf during wet years and less than 2 taf during below normal, dry, and critical years. CVP supplies are steadier between years, averaging 10 taf per year between 1989 and 2014.



**Figure A2.F.e-5. Gravelly Ford Water District GSA Surface Water Inflows by Water Source Type.**







1CVP Supply is considered as all water supply released from CVP storage facilities. The volume of CVP Supply includes CVP deliveries to CVP contractors/water users, and flood releases from CVP facilities that largely pass through the subbasin.

#### <span id="page-601-0"></span>3.2.1.2 Precipitation

Precipitation estimates for GFWD GSA are provided in Figure A2.F.e-6 and Table A2.F.e-4. Precipitation estimates are reported by water use sector.

Total precipitation is highly variable between years in the study area, ranging from approximately 6 taf (7.6 inches) during average dry years to 10 taf (14.4 inches) during average wet years.



**Figure A2.F.e-6. Gravelly Ford Water District GSA Precipitation by Water Use Sector.**

		<b>Native</b>		
<b>Water Year (Type)</b>	<b>Agricultural</b>	<b>Vegetation</b>	<b>Urban</b>	<b>Total</b>
1989 (C)	7,597	738	15	8,350
1990 (C)	7,079	691	15	7,785
1991 (C)	7,400	717	15	8,132
1992 (C)	6,053	582	12	6,647
1993 (W)	10,265	978	19	11,262
1994 (C)	5,821	551	11	6,383
1995 (W)	12,504	1,176	20	13,700
1996 (W)	7,642	715	15	8,372
1997 (W)	8,732	815	17	9,564
1998 (W)	10,499	974	24	11,497
1999 (AN)	4,259	394	9	4,662
2000 (AN)	6,946	640	18	7,604
2001 (D)	6,481	595	19	7,095
2002 (D)	5,872	544	22	6,438
2003 (BN)	5,151	481	23	5,655
2004 (D)	4,273	404	23	4,700
2005 (W)	7,360	700	46	8,106
2006 (W)	8,096	776	59	8,931
2007 (C)	3,274	316	27	3,617

*Table A2.F.e-4. Gravelly Ford Water District GSA Precipitation by Water Use Sector (Acre-Feet).*



### <span id="page-603-0"></span>3.2.1.3 Groundwater Extraction by Water Use Sector

Estimates of groundwater extraction by water use sector are provided in Figure A2.F.e-7 and Table A2.F.e-5. For agricultural and urban (urban, semi-agricultural, industrial) lands, groundwater extraction represents pumping, while for native lands, groundwater extraction by riparian vegetation was considered to be negligible. In all water use sector water budgets, groundwater extraction served as the water budget closure term. Groundwater extraction is dominated by irrigated agriculture, varying substantially from year to year based on variability and/or uncertainty in surface water supplies, particularly during wet years in the 1990s.



**Figure A2.F.e-7. Gravelly Ford Water District GSA Groundwater Extraction by Water Use Sector.**







#### <span id="page-605-0"></span>3.2.1.4 Groundwater Discharge to Surface Water Sources

The depth to groundwater is greater than 100-200 ft across much of the Madera Subbasin. Given the depth to the water table in the Madera Subbasin, groundwater discharge to surface water sources is negligible.

### <span id="page-605-1"></span>3.2.2 Outflows

#### <span id="page-605-2"></span>3.2.2.1 Evapotranspiration by Water Use Sector

Evapotranspiration (ET) by water use sector is reported in Figures A2.F.e-8 to A2.F.e-10 and Tables A2.F.e-6 to A2.F.e-8. First, total ET is reported, followed by ET from applied water and ET from precipitation.

Total ET varies between years, with the lowest observed in 1991, at approximately 18 taf, and greatest in 2004, at approximately 21 taf. Agricultural ET tends to increase in drier years, while native ET decreases.



**Figure A2.F.e-8. Gravelly Ford Water District GSA Evapotranspiration by Water Use Sector.**









**Figure A2.F.e-9. Gravelly Ford Water District GSA Evapotranspiration of Applied Water by Water Use Sector.**



## *Table A2.F.e-7. Gravelly Ford Water District GSA Evapotranspiration of Applied Water by Water Use Sector (Acre-Feet).*











In addition to ET from land surfaces, estimates of evaporation from GFWD canals and rivers and streams are reported in Figure A2.F.e-11 and Table A2.F.e-9. Evaporation from the Rivers and Streams System includes evaporation of both surface inflows and of precipitation runoff within local sloughs and depressions. Evaporation from the canalsincludes evaporation of CVP supplies from MID via Cottonwood Creek and varies between years according to water availability. Total evaporation from all sources averaged less than 0.2 taf per year between 1989 and 2014.



**Figure A2.F.e-11. Gravelly Ford Water District GSA Evaporation from the Surface Water System.**



### *Table A2.F.e-9. Gravelly Ford Water District GSA Evaporation from the Surface Water System (Acre-Feet).*

<sup>1</sup> Includes evaporation of surface inflows and of precipitation runoff.

## <span id="page-611-0"></span>3.2.2.2 Surface Water Outflow by Water Source Type

Surface water outflows by water source type are summarized in Figure A2.F.e-12 and Table A2.F.e-10. In GFWD GSA, runoff of applied water is assumed negligible and runoff of precipitation is collected in waterways within GFWD GSA, with most infiltrating to the groundwater system except following the largest storm events. Surface inflows of CVP supplies are expected to be used entirely in GFWD GSA. Thus, surface outflows from the GSA are expected to be primarily local supplies along Cottonwood Creek. Between 1989 and 2014, these outflows averaged over 9 taf during wet years and 1 taf during below normal, dry, and critical years.


**Figure A2.F.e-12. Gravelly Ford Water District GSA Surface Outflows by Water Source Type.**







### 3.2.2.3 Infiltration of Precipitation

Estimated infiltration of precipitation (deep percolation of precipitation) by water use sector is provided in Figure A2.F.e-13 and Table A2.F.e-11. Infiltration of precipitation to the groundwater system is highly variable from year to year due to variation in the timing and amount of precipitation, ranging from less than 1 taf annually during some critical and dry years to more than 6 taf during 1995.







## *Table A2.F.e-11. Gravelly Ford Water District GSA Infiltration of Precipitation by Water Use Sector (Acre-Feet).*

## 3.2.2.4 Infiltration of Surface Water

Estimated infiltration of surface water (seepage) by source is provided in Figure A2.F.e-14 and Table A2.F.e-12. Seepage from the Rivers and Streams System includes seepage of both surface inflows and of precipitation runoff into local sloughs and depressions. The canal system predominantly contributes to seepage in GFWD, with seepage averaging 5.9 taf per year between 1989 and 2014. Seepage from rivers and streams is comparatively lower, averaging less than 1 taf per year.



**Figure A2.F.e-14. Gravelly Ford Water District GSA Infiltration of Surface Water.**







<sup>1</sup> Includes infiltration of surface inflows and of precipitation runoff.

## 3.2.2.5 Infiltration of Applied Water

Estimated infiltration of applied water (deep percolation of applied water) by water use sector is provided in Figure A2.F.e-15 and Table A2.F.e-13. Infiltration of applied water is dominated by agricultural irrigation and has slowly decreased over time, likely due to increase use of drip and micro-irrigation systems in place of flood irrigation.







## *Table A2.F.e-13. Gravelly Ford Water District GSA Infiltration of Applied Water by Water Use Sector (Acre-Feet).*

## 3.2.3 Change in Surface Water System Storage

Estimates of change in SWS storage are provided in Figure A2.F.e-16 and Table A2.F.e-14. Inter-annual changes in storage within the surface water system consist primarily of root zone soil moisture storage changes, are relatively small, and tend to average near zero over many years.



**Figure A2.F.e-16. Gravelly Ford Water District GSA Change in Surface Water System Storage.**







## **Historical Water Budget Summary**

Annual inflows, outflows, and change in SWS storage during the historical water budget period (1989- 2014) are summarized in Figure A2.F.e-17 and Table A2.F.e-15. Inflows are shown as positive values, while outflows and change in SWS storage are shown as negative values. Review of the variability in component volumes across years provides insight into the impacts of hydrology on the surface water system water budget.



**Figure A2.F.e-17. Gravelly Ford Water District GSA Surface Water System Historical Water Budget, 1989- 2014.**



### *Table A2.F.e-15. Gravelly Ford Water District GSA Surface Water System Historical Water Budget, 1989-2014 (Acre-Feet).*

<sup>1</sup>Includes ET of applied water, ET of precipitation, and evaporation from rivers and streams. <sup>2</sup>Includes infiltration from the Rivers and Streams System and the Canal System.

#### **Current Water Budget Summary**  $3.4$

The current water budget was developed following a similar process to the historical water budget using the 2015 land use in Table A2.F.e-1 and the same 1989-2014 average hydrologic conditions of the historical base period, including surface water flows, precipitation, and weather parameters. This allowed quantification of groundwater inflows and outflows for current consumptive use in the context of average water supply conditions.

Annual inflows, outflows, and change in SWS storage from the current water budget are summarized in Figure A2.F.e-18 and Table A2.F.e-16. Inflows are shown as positive values, while outflows and change in SWS storage are shown as negative values.



**Figure A2.F.e-18. Gravelly Ford Water District GSA Surface Water System Current Water Budget.**





<sup>1</sup>Includes ET of applied water, ET of precipitation, and evaporation from rivers and streams. <sup>2</sup>Includes infiltration from the Rivers and Streams System and the Canal System.

## **Net Recharge from SWS**

Overdraft is defined in DWR Bulletin 118 as "the condition of a groundwater basin or subbasin in which the amount of water withdrawn by pumping exceeds the amount of water that recharges the basin over a period of years, during which the water supply conditions approximate average conditions" (DWR 2003). The Madera Subbasin water budget indicates that overdraft conditions occurred during the 1989-2014 historical base period. Per 23 CCR Section 354.18(b)(5), the subbasin overdraft has been quantified for this base period. The evaluation of overdraft conditions includes estimates of recharge from subsurface flows. However, estimates of recharge from subsurface flows are less accurate when estimated for areas less that an entire subbasin. Thus, for estimates of GSA level contribution to overdraft, the term net recharge from the SWS is defined as groundwater recharge minus groundwater extraction. Net recharge from the SWS is useful for understanding and analyzing the combined effects of land surface processes on the underlying GWS.

When calculated from the historical water budget, average net recharge from the SWS represents the average recharge (when positive) or shortage of recharge (when negative) based on historical cropping, land use practices, and average hydrologic conditions. When calculated from the current land use water budget, average net recharge represents the average recharge or shortage (negative net recharge) based on current cropping, land use practices, and average hydrologic conditions.

Average net recharge from the SWS is presented below for the GFWD GSA portion of the Madera Subbasin. Table A2.F.e-17 shows the average net recharge from the SWS for 1989-2014 based on the historical water budget, and Table A2.F.e-18 shows the same for the current water budget. Historically, the average net recharge in GFWD GSA was approximately -0.5 taf per year between 1989 and 2014. Under current land use conditions, the average net recharge in GFWD GSA is approximately -1.7 taf, indicating shortage conditions.

<b>Year Type</b>	<b>Number</b> of Years	<b>Infiltration</b> of Applied Water (a)	Infiltration of Precipitation (b)	Infiltration of Surface Water <sup>1</sup> (c)	<b>Groundwater</b> <b>Extraction (d)</b>	<b>Net</b> Recharge from SWS $(a+b+c-d)$
W	8	6,682	4,262	11,262	9,145	13,061
AN	3	6,088	2,351	7,947	14,270	2,116
<b>BN</b>	2	5,790	1,496	3,812	18,584	$-7,486$
D	4	6,399	1,735	4,205	18,917	$-6,578$
C	9	6,282	2,107	2,487	20,085	$-9,209$
Annual Average						
(1989-2014)	26	6,363	2,694	6,183	15,753	$-513$

*Table A2.F.e-17. Historical Water Budget: Average Net Recharge from SWS by Water Year Type, 1989-2014 (Acre-Feet).*

<sup>1</sup> Includes infiltration from the Rivers and Streams System and Canal System.





<sup>1</sup> Includes infiltration from the Rivers and Streams System and Canal System.

## **Uncertainties in Water Budget Components**

Uncertainties associated with each water budget component were estimated as a percentage representing approximately a 95% confidence interval following the procedure described by Clemmens and Burt (1997). Uncertainties for all independently measured or estimated water budget components were estimated based on the measurement accuracy, typical values reported in technical literature, typical values calculated in other water budgets, and professional judgement.

Table A2.F.e-19 provides a summary of typical uncertainty values associated with major SWS inflow and outflow components. These uncertainties provide a basis for evaluating confidence in water budget results and help to identify data needs that may be addressed during GSP implementation.





#### $3.7$ **Comparison of Current Water Budget with GFWD GSA Individual GSP**

GFWD GSA is among the three GSAs that are each separately satisfying the requirements of SGMA by preparing individual GSPs. These individual GSPs have been prepared separately from this joint plan. A coordination agreement is being developed by all seven GSAs in the Madera Subbasin detailing required GSA and GSP cooperation and coordination.

To maintain consistent estimates of subbasin groundwater storage and overdraft conditions between the joint and individual GSPs, comparisons of surface water supply and demand under current land use conditions have been prepared between the GSA-level current water budget from this coordinated plan and the current water budget from the individual GSP.

Table 20 provides a comparison between the GFWD GSA current water budget developed as part of this coordinated plan and the GFWD GSA current water budget developed by the District for its individual GSP. During the current water budget period (2015 land use, 1989-2014 average water supply), the District's water supplies and rural residential consumptive use volumes are within 30 AF/yr volume, indicating close correspondence between the water budgets. Land use areas are approximately identical between the plans, though agricultural consumptive use volumes differ by over 2,000 AF/yr on account of different estimated rates of ET of applied water.

ET of applied water in 2015 was estimated in the coordinated GSP water budget based on both the 2015 crop areas and the 2015 crop ET rates estimated from daily ET<sub>o</sub> at the Madera II CIMIS station and crop coefficients derived from actual ET (ET<sub>a</sub>) estimated by the Surface Energy Balance Algorithm for Land (SEBAL). In contrast, the 2015 ET of applied water was estimated in the individual GSP water budget based on a weighted-average rate derived from the 1989-2014 average ET of applied water rate of each crop and the 2015 acreage of each crop. As drought conditions in 2015 are estimated to have increased ET of applied water (due in part to lower than average precipitation), the process used in the individual GSP water budget would potentially underestimate ET of applied water in 2015, thus explaining the differences observed between the two water budgets.

## *Table 20. Comparison of Current Water Budget Results between GFWD GSA Individual GSP and Joint GSP.*

## **Gravelly Ford Water District** Current Water Budget - Average Annual Values Period of Record: 2015 land use, 1989-2014 average water supply



\*2015 Total Consumptive Use in Individual GSP based on average 1989-2014 crop ETAW rate, based on 2015 crop ETAW rate in Coordinated GSP

\*\* Calculated as the difference between total consumptive use (2015) and total water supply (average 1989-2014).

# **APPENDIX 2.F. WATER BUDGET INFORMATION**

## **2.F.f. Surface Water System Water Budget: New Stone Water District GSA**

Prepared as part of the **Joint Groundwater Sustainability Plan Madera Subbasin**

January 2020

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#### <span id="page-632-0"></span>**INTRODUCTION** 1

To ensure sustainable groundwater management throughout California's groundwater basins, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA) requires Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to prepare and adopt Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) with strategies to achieve subbasin groundwater sustainability within 20 years of plan adoption. Integral to each GSP is a water budget used to quantify the subbasin's groundwater overdraft (if applicable) and sustainable yield.

In 2017, New Stone Water District (NSWD) GSA formed to manage approximately 4,200 acres of the Madera Subbasin. This document presents results of the surface water system (SWS) water budgets developed for historical and current land use conditions in NSWD GSA. The NSWD GSA water budgets were integrated with separate water budgets developed for the other six (6) GSAs in Madera Subbasin to prepare a boundary water budget for the Madera Subbasin SWS. Results of the subbasin boundary water budget are reported in the Madera Subbasin GSP Section 2.2.3 and were integrated with a subbasin groundwater model (GSP Appendix 6.D) to estimate subbasin sustainable yield (GSP Section 2.2.3).

#### <span id="page-632-1"></span>**WATER BUDGET CONCEPTUAL MODEL**  $\mathbf{2}$

A water budget is defined as a complete accounting of all water flowing into and out of a defined volume (e.g., a subbasin or a GSA) over a specified period of time. The conceptual model (or structure) of the NSWD GSA water budget developed for this investigation is consistent with the GSP Regulations defined under Title 23 of California Code of Regulations<sup>[1](#page-632-2)</sup> (CCR) and adheres to sound water budget principles and practices defined by California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in the Water Budget Best Management Practice (BMP) guidelines (DWR, 2016).

The lateral extent of NSWD GSA is defined by the boundaries indicated in Figure A2.F.f-1. The vertical extent of NSWD GSA are the land surface (top) and the base of fresh water at the bottom of the basin (bottom), as described in the hydrogeologic conceptual model (HCM) developed in GSP Section 2.2.1. The vertical extent of Madera Subbasin and its GSAs is subdivided into a surface water system (SWS) and the underlying groundwater system (GWS), with separate but related water budgets prepared for each that together represent the overall subbasin water budget.

A conceptual representation of the NSWD GSA water budget is represented in Figure A2.F.f-2. This document details only the SWS portion of the NSWD GSA water budget. The SWS is divided into two primary accounting centers: the Land Surface System and the Rivers and Streams System. The Land Surface System is further divided into three accounting centers representing NSWD GSA's water use sectors: Agricultural Land, Native Vegetation Land, and Urban Land (urban, industrial, and semiagricultural).

Water budget components, or directional flow of water between accounting centers and across the SWS boundary, are indicated by arrows. Inflows and outflows were calculated using measurements and other historical data or were calculated as the water budget closure term – the difference between all other estimated or measured inflows and outflows from each accounting center or water use sector (bold arrows).

<span id="page-632-2"></span><sup>1</sup> California Code of Regulations Title 23. Waters, Division 2. Department of Water Resources, Chapter 1.5. Groundwater Management, Subchapter 2. Groundwater Sustainability Plans.







**Figure A2.F.f-2. New Stone Water District GSA Water Budget Structure.**

Inflows to the SWS include precipitation, surface water inflows (in various canals and streams), and groundwater extraction. Outflows from the SWS include evapotranspiration (ET), surface water outflows (in various canals and streams), and infiltration to the groundwater system (seepage and deep percolation). Also represented in Figure A2.F.f-2 are inflows and outflows from the GWS, which are discussed and quantified at the subbasin level in the GWS water budget in GSP Section 2.2.3. Subsurface GWS inflows and outflows are not quantified on the water budget subregion scale.

Inflows and outflows were quantified following the process described in GSP Section 2.2.3 on a monthly time step for water years in the historical water budget base period (1989-2014 hydrologic and land use conditions), the current water budget (2015 land use using 1989-2014 average hydrologic conditions), and projected water budget. Four projected water budgets were prepared for the years 2019 through 2090 based on 1965 through 2015 hydrologic conditions:

- 1. Historical hydrologic conditions
	- a. Without projects and management actions, and
	- b. With projects and management actions
- 2. Historical hydrologic conditions adjusted for anticipated climate change per DWR-provided 2030 climate change factors
	- a. Without projects and management actions, and
	- b. With projects and management actions.

# <span id="page-635-0"></span>**WATER BUDGET ANALYSIS**

The historical water budget and current land use water budget for NSWD GSA are presented below following a summary of land use data relevant to water budget development. Land use data is provided for the 1989-2014 historical water budget period and for 2015, the land use period used for current water budget development.

## <span id="page-635-1"></span>**Land Use**

Land use estimates for 1989-2015 corresponding to water use sectors are summarized in Figure A2.F.f-3 and Table A2.F.f-1 for NSWD GSA. According to GSP Regulations (23 CCR § 351(al)):

*"Water use sector" refers to categories of water demand based on the general land uses to which the water is applied, including urban, industrial, agricultural, managed wetlands, managed recharge, and native vegetation.*

In NSWD GSA, water use sectors include agricultural, native vegetation, and urban land use. The urban land use category includes urban and semi-agricultural<sup>[2](#page-635-2)</sup> lands as well as industrial land, which covers only a small area in the subbasin.

Agricultural lands in NSWD GSA gradually expanded between 1989 and 2014, from just over 3,800 acres to approximately 3,950 acres. Urban lands have also expanded, albeit to a much lesser extent. The expansion of these lands has coincided with a decrease in native vegetation from over 300 acres in 1989 to under 200 in 2014.

<span id="page-635-2"></span> $<sup>2</sup>$  As defined in the DWR county land use surveys, semi-agricultural land use subclasses include farmsteads,</sup> livestock feed lot operations, dairies, poultry farms, and miscellaneous semi-agricultural land use incidental to agriculture (small roads, ditches, non-planted areas of cropped fields (DWR, 2009).

Agricultural land uses are further detailed in Figure A2.F.f-4 and Table A2.F.f-2. Between 1989 and the mid-1990s, agriculture in NSWD GSA was dominated by pasture and alfalfa crops. Since the late 1990s, much of this cropland has been replaced by grapes.



**Figure A2.F.f-3. New Stone Water District GSA Land Use Areas.**

		<b>Native</b>		
<b>Water Year (Type)</b>	<b>Agricultural</b>	Vegetation <sup>1</sup>	Urban <sup>2</sup>	<b>Total</b>
1989 (C)	3,830	340	11	4,182
1990 (C)	3,836	335	12	4,182
1991 (C)	3,834	336	12	4,182
1992 (C)	3,828	342	12	4,182
1993 (W)	3,837	332	13	4,182
1994 (C)	3,851	317	14	4,182
1995 (W)	3,845	322	15	4,182
1996 (W)	3,863	304	15	4,182
1997 (W)	3,880	286	16	4,182
1998 (W)	3,898	268	16	4,182
1999 (AN)	3,916	250	16	4,182

*Table A2.F.f-1. New Stone Water District GSA Land Use Areas (Acres).*



<sup>1</sup> Area includes land classified as native vegetation and water surfaces.

<sup>2</sup> Area includes land classified as urban, industrial, and semi-agricultural.



**Figure A2.F.f-4. New Stone Water District GSA Agricultural Land Use Areas.**

<b>Water Year</b>	<b>Citrus and</b>		<b>Grain and</b>			Misc. Field	<b>Misc. Truck</b>		<b>Pasture and</b>	
(Type)	<b>Subtropical</b>	Corn	<b>Hay Crops</b>	<b>Grapes</b>	Idle	<b>Crops</b>	<b>Crops</b>	<b>Orchard</b>	<b>Alfalfa</b>	<b>Total</b>
1989 (C)	0	293	93	4	219	20	0	49	3,152	3,830
1990 (C)	0	271	130	4	128	22	0	56	3,226	3,836
1991 (C)	0	243	94	4	66	$\overline{25}$		62	3,339	3,834
1992 (C)	0	272	$\overline{118}$	4	$\overline{8}$	$\overline{24}$	10	63	3,329	3,828
1993 (W)	0	293	120	4	53	24	19	68	3,256	3,837
1994 (C)	$\mathbf 0$	288	114	4	$\overline{72}$	$\overline{23}$	45	$\overline{72}$	3,235	3,851
1995 (W)	0	324	274	8	0	$\overline{21}$	0	85	3,132	3,845
1996 (W)	0	320	132	534	0	$\overline{20}$		82	2,773	3,863
1997 (W)	0	285	112	1,071	0	13	0	85	2,314	3,880
1998 (W)	0	307	52	1,603	6	9		88	1,832	3,898
1999 (AN)	0	301	16	2,135	$\pmb{0}$	$\overline{5}$	0	92	1,367	3,916
2000 (AN)	0	294	27	2,615	0	3	0	95	900	3,933
2001 (D)	0	287	0	3,125	$\pmb{0}$	0	0	$\overline{97}$	442	3,951
2002 (D)	0	311	4	3,126	8	0	0	94	407	3,949
2003 (BN)	0	334	6	3,127	16	0	0	91	371	3,946
2004 (D)	0	357	10	3,129	24	0	0	88	336	3,944
2005 (W)	0	378	$\overline{17}$	3,128	33	$\mathbf 0$	0	$\overline{85}$	300	3,941
2006 (W)	0	402	$\overline{20}$	3,125	42	0	0	$\overline{85}$	265	3,939
2007 (C)	0	425	21	3,129	48	0	0	84	229	3,936
2008 (C)	0	446	$\overline{31}$	3,125	$\overline{56}$	0	0	$\overline{82}$	194	3,934
2009 (BN)	0	466	$\overline{31}$	3,127	69	0	0	80	158	3,931
2010 (AN)	0	488	49	3,114	$\overline{71}$	0	0	83	123	3,929
2011 (W)	0	510	56	3,110	79	0	0	84	87	3,926
2012 (D)	0	446	38	3,107	62	86	0	100	93	3,932
2013 (C)	0	497	20	3,104	44	59	0	118	96	3,938
2014 (C)	$\mathbf 0$	176	$\overline{2}$	3,102	$\overline{26}$	404	0	134	98	3,943
2015 (C)	0	172	26	3,160	13	223	$\overline{85}$	153	119	3,951
Average $(1989 - 2014)$	0	347	61	1,987	43	29	3	85	1,348	3,903

*Table A2.F.f-2. New Stone Water District GSA Agricultural Land Use Areas (Acres).*

## <span id="page-639-0"></span>**Surface Water System Water Budget**

This section presents surface water system water budget components within NSWD GSA as per GSP regulations. These are followed by a summary of the water budget results by accounting center.

## <span id="page-639-1"></span>3.2.1 Inflows

### <span id="page-639-2"></span>3.2.1.1 Surface Water Inflow by Water Source Type

Surface water inflows include surface water flowing into the basin across the basin boundary. Per the Regulations, surface inflows must be reported by water source type. According to the Regulations:

*"Water source type" represents the source from which water is derived to meet the applied beneficial uses, including groundwater, recycled water, reused water, and surface water sources identified as Central Valley Project, the State Water Project, the Colorado River Project, local supplies, and local imported supplies.*

Additionally, runoff of precipitation from upgradient areas adjacent to the subregion represents a potential source of surface water inflow.

### *Local Supplies*

Primary surface water inflows to NSWD GSA include local supplies along Chowchilla Bypass.

### *Local Imported Supplies*

NSWD GSA does not receive local imported supplies for irrigation purposes.

### *CVP Supplies*

NSWD GSA does not receive CVP supplies for irrigation purposes.

### *Recycling and Reuse*

Recycling and reuse are not a significant source of supply within NSWD GSA.

### *Other Surface Inflows*

For the water budgets presented herein, precipitation runoff from outside the subregion is considered relatively minimal and is expected to pass through the waterways accounted above following relatively large storm events. Precipitation runoff from lands inside the subregion is internal to the surface water system and is thus not considered as surface inflows to the subregion boundary.

### *Summary of Surface Inflows*

Surface water inflowsin Chowchilla Bypass are summarized by water year type in Figure A2.F.f-5 and Table A2.F.f-3. During the study period, surface water supplies vary greatly with water year type, with substantial local supply inflows during wet years when flood flows along San Joaquin River are directed down Chowchilla Bypass. Total surface water inflows are on average approximately 590 thousand acrefeet (taf) during wet years.



**Figure A2.F.f-5. New Stone Water District GSA Surface Water Inflows by Water Source Type.**

IALI E-TEELJ.										
<b>Water Year (Type)</b>	<b>Local Supply</b>	<b>CVP Supply1</b>	<b>Other Surface Inflows</b>	<b>Total</b>						
1989 (C)	0	0	0	0						
1990 (C)	0	0	0	0						
1991 (C)	0	0	0	0						
1992 (C)	0	0	0	0						
1993 (W)	578,875	0	$\mathbf{0}$	578,875						
1994 (C)	0	0	0	0						
1995 (W)	579,464	0	0	579,464						
1996 (W)	597,233	0	0	597,233						
1997 (W)	549,449	0	0	549,449						
1998 (W)	526,604	0	0	526,604						
1999 (AN)	113,200	0	0	113,200						
2000 (AN)	5,146	0	0	5,146						
2001 (D)	0	0	0	0						
2002 (D)	0	0	0	0						
2003 (BN)	0	0	0	0						
2004 (D)	0	0	0	0						
2005 (W)	246,647	0	$\mathbf{0}$	246,647						
2006 (W)	864,794	0	0	864,794						
2007 (C)	0	0	0	0						

*Table A2.F.f-3. New Stone Water District GSA Surface Water Inflows by Water Source Type (Acre-Feet).*



1CVP Supply is considered as all water supply released from CVP storage facilities. The volume of CVP Supply includes CVP deliveries to CVP contractors/water users, and flood releases from CVP facilities that largely pass through the subbasin.

## <span id="page-641-0"></span>3.2.1.2 Precipitation

Precipitation estimates for the NSWD GSA are provided in Figure A2.F.f-6 and Table A2.F.f-4. Precipitation estimates are reported by water use sector.

Total precipitation is variable between years in the study area, ranging from approximately 3 taf (8.6 inches) during critical years to 5 taf (14.4 inches) during wet years.



**Figure A2.F.f-6. New Stone Water District GSA Precipitation by Water Use Sector.**





### <span id="page-642-0"></span>3.2.1.3 Groundwater Extraction by Water Use Sector

Estimates of groundwater extraction by water use sector are provided in Figure A2.F.f-7 and Table A2.F.f-5. For agricultural and urban (urban, semi-agricultural, industrial) lands, groundwater extraction represents pumping, while for native lands, groundwater extraction by riparian vegetation was considered to be negligible. For all water use sectors, groundwater extraction served as the water budget closure term. Groundwater extraction varies between years depending on surface water supplies and crop water demands or urban land consumptive use requirements. However, between 1989 and 2014 groundwater extraction has, on average, slightly decreased across agricultural lands as land use has shifted from alfalfa and pasture to grapes.



**Figure A2.F.f-7. New Stone Water District GSA Groundwater Extraction by Water Use Sector.**







### <span id="page-644-0"></span>3.2.1.4 Groundwater Discharge to Surface Water Sources

The depth to groundwater is greater than 100-200 ft across much of the Madera Subbasin. Given the depth to the water table in the Madera Subbasin, groundwater discharge to surface water sources is negligible.

## <span id="page-644-1"></span>3.2.2 Outflows

### <span id="page-644-2"></span>3.2.2.1 Evapotranspiration by Water Use Sector

Evapotranspiration (ET) by water use sector is reported in Figures A2.F.f-8 to A2.F.f-10 and Tables A2.F.f-6 to A2.F.f-8. First, total ET is reported, followed by ET from applied water and ET from precipitation.

Total ET varies between years but has generally decreased over time following changes in cropping from alfalfa and pasture to grapes. Total ET ranges from a low of approximately 8.4 taf in 2014 to a high of 12.8 taf in 1992.



**Figure A2.F.f-8. New Stone Water District GSA Evapotranspiration by Water Use Sector.**









**Figure A2.F.f-9. New Stone Water District GSA Evapotranspiration of Applied Water by Water Use Sector.**



## *Table A2.F.f-7. New Stone Water District GSA Evapotranspiration of Applied Water by Water Use Sector (Acre-Feet).*


**Figure A2.F.f-10. New Stone Water District GSA Evapotranspiration of Precipitation by Water Use Sector.**







In addition to ET from land surfaces, estimates of evaporation from rivers and streams are reported in Figure A2.F.f-11 and Table A2.F.f-9. Evaporation from the Rivers and Streams System includes evaporation of both surface inflows and of precipitation runoff within local sloughs and depressions. Evaporation is highest in wet years when surface water inflows are typically higher, averaging approximately 0.3 taf per wet year.



**Figure A2.F.f-11. New Stone Water District GSA Evaporation from the Surface Water System.**



# *Table A2.F.f-9. New Stone Water District GSA Evaporation from the Surface Water System (Acre-Feet).*

<sup>1</sup> Includes evaporation of surface inflows and of precipitation runoff.

# 3.2.2.2 Surface Water Outflow by Water Source Type

Surface water outflows by water source type are summarized in Figure A2.F.f-12 and Table A2.F.f-10. In NSWD GSA, runoff of applied water is assumed negligible and runoff of precipitation is collected in waterways within NSWD GSA, reentering the groundwater system through infiltration except during the largest storm events. Thus, surface outflows primarily from local supplies along Chowchilla Bypass are expected to leave the subregion. These outflows primarily occur during wet years, averaging approximately 586 taf per wet year.



**Figure A2.F.f-12. New Stone Water District GSA Surface Outflows by Water Source Type.**

<b>Water Year (Type)</b>	<b>Local Supplies</b>	<b>CVP Supplies</b>	<b>Total</b>					
1989 (C)	0	0	0					
1990 (C)	0	0	$\mathbf{0}$					
1991 (C)	0	0	$\mathbf{0}$					
1992 (C)	0	$\mathbf{0}$	$\mathbf 0$					
1993 (W)	575,310	0	575,310					
1994 (C)		0						
1995 (W)	576,248	$\mathbf{0}$	576,248					
1996 (W)	592,679	0	592,679					
1997 (W)	545,538	$\mathbf{0}$	545,538					
1998 (W)	522,140	0	522,140					
1999 (AN)	111,033	0	111,033					
2000 (AN)	4,721	$\mathbf{0}$	4,721					
2001 (D)	0	0	0					
2002 (D)	0	0	0					
2003 (BN)	0	0	0					
2004 (D)	0	0	$\mathbf 0$					
2005 (W)	245,701	0	245,701					
2006 (W)	850,602	0	850,602					
2007 (C)	0	0	0					
2008 (C)	0	$\mathbf{0}$	0					
2009 (BN)	0	0	$\pmb{0}$					
2010 (AN)	0	$\mathbf{0}$	$\mathbf 0$					

*Table A2.F.f-10. New Stone Water District GSA Surface Outflows by Water Source Type (Acre-Feet).*



### 3.2.2.3 Infiltration of Precipitation

Estimated infiltration of precipitation (deep percolation of precipitation) by water use sector is provided in Figure A2.F.f-13 and Table A2.F.f-11. Infiltration of precipitation to the groundwater system is highly variable from year to year due to variation in the timing and amount of precipitation, ranging from over 1.8 taf on average during wet years to less than 1 taf annually during below normal, dry, and critical year types.



**Figure A2.F.f-13. New Stone Water District GSA Infiltration of Precipitation by Water Use Sector.**



# *Table A2.F.f-11. New Stone Water District GSA Infiltration of Precipitation by Water Use Sector (Acre-Feet).*

# 3.2.2.4 Infiltration of Surface Water

Estimated infiltration of surface water (seepage) by source is provided in Figure A2.F.f-14 and Table A2.F.f-12. Seepage from the Rivers and Streams System includes seepage of both Chowchilla Bypass flows and of precipitation runoff. The total infiltration of surface water exhibits substantial variability over time, similar to the annual variability of surface water inflows. Seepage particularly increases during times when the Chowchilla Bypass exceeds the capacity of its pilot channel and fills the entire bypass, such as in 2006 and 2011.



**Figure A2.F.f-14. New Stone Water District GSA Infiltration of Surface Water.**







<sup>1</sup> Includes infiltration of surface inflows and of precipitation runoff.

### 3.2.2.5 Infiltration of Applied Water

Estimated infiltration of applied water (deep percolation of applied water) by water use sector is provided in Figure A2.F.f-15 and Table A2.F.f-13. During all years, infiltration of applied water was dominated by agricultural irrigation, which generally decreased from the late-1990s through 2014 following changes in cropping from pasture and alfalfa to grapes. Between 1989 and 2014, agricultural applied water provided an average of approximately 3.2 taf per year to the groundwater system.



**Figure A2.F.f-15. New Stone Water District GSA Infiltration of Applied Water by Water Use Sector.**



# *Table A2.F.f-13. New Stone Water District GSA Infiltration of Applied Water by Water Use Sector (Acre-Feet).*

# 3.2.3 Change in Surface Water System Storage

Estimates of change in SWS storage are provided in Figure A2.F.f-16 and Table A2.F.f-14. Inter-annual changes in storage within the surface water system consist primarily of root zone soil moisture storage changes, are relatively small, and tend to average near zero over many years.



**Figure A2.F.f-16. New Stone Water District GSA Change in Surface Water System Storage.**







# **Historical Water Budget Summary**

Annual inflows, outflows, and change in SWS storage in the surface water system during the historical water budget period (1989-2014) are summarized in Figure A2.F.f-17 and Table A2.F.f-15. Inflows are shown as positive values, while outflows and change in SWS storage are shown as negative values. During wet years, boundary surface inflow and outflow volumes are substantially higher than other components. Figure A2.F.f-17 thus only shows the difference between the surface inflows and surface outflows after seepage and evaporation are accounted within NSWD GSA. Review of the variability in component volumes across years provides insight into the impacts of hydrology on the surface water system water budget.



**Figure A2.F.f-17. New Stone Water District GSA Surface Water System Historical Water Budget, 1989-2014.**



# *Table A2.F.f-15. New Stone Water District GSA Surface Water System Historical Water Budget, 1989-2014 (Acre-Feet).*

<sup>1</sup>Includes ET of applied water, ET of precipitation, and evaporation from rivers and streams.

#### $3.4$ **Current Water Budget Summary**

The current water budget was developed following a similar process to the historical water budget using the 2015 land use in Table 1 and the same 1989-2014 average hydrologic conditions of the historical base period, including surface water flows, precipitation, and weather parameters. This allowed quantification of groundwater inflows and outflows for current consumptive use in the context of average water supply conditions.

Annual inflows, outflows, and change in SWS storage from the current water budget are summarized in Figure A2.F.f-18 and Table A2.F.f-16. Inflows are shown as positive values, while outflows and change in SWS storage are shown as negative values. Similar to Figure A2.F.f-17, Figure A2.F.f-18 only shows the difference between the surface inflows and surface outflows after seepage and evaporation are accounted within NSWD GSA.



**Figure A2.F.f-18. New Stone Water District GSA Surface Water System Current Water Budget, 1989-2014.**



# *Table A2.F.f-16. New Stone Water District GSA Surface Water System Current Water Budget, 1989-2014 (Acre-Feet).*

<sup>1</sup>Includes ET of applied water, ET of precipitation, and evaporation from rivers and streams.

# **Net Recharge from SWS**

Overdraft is defined in DWR Bulletin 118 as "the condition of a groundwater basin or subbasin in which the amount of water withdrawn by pumping exceeds the amount of water that recharges the basin over a period of years, during which the water supply conditions approximate average conditions" (DWR 2003). The Madera Subbasin water budget indicates that overdraft conditions occurred during the 1989-2014 historical base period. Per 23 CCR Section 354.18(b)(5), the subbasin overdraft has been quantified for this base period. The evaluation of overdraft conditions includes estimates of recharge from subsurface flows. However, estimates of recharge from subsurface flows are less accurate when estimated for areas less that an entire subbasin. Thus, for estimates of GSA level contribution to overdraft, the term net recharge from the SWS is defined as groundwater recharge minus groundwater extraction. Net recharge from the SWS is useful for understanding and analyzing the combined effects of land surface processes on the underlying GWS.

When calculated from the historical water budget, average net recharge from the SWS represents the average recharge (when positive) or shortage of recharge (when negative) based on historical cropping, land use practices, and average hydrologic conditions. When calculated from the current land use water budget, average net recharge represents the average recharge or shortage (negative net recharge) based on current cropping, land use practices, and average hydrologic conditions.

Average net recharge from the SWS is presented below for the NSWD GSA portion of the Madera Subbasin. Table A2.F.f-17 shows the average net recharge from the SWS for 1989-2014 based on the historical water budget, and Table A2.F.f-18 shows the same for the current water budget. Under current and historical land use conditions, average annual shortage from NSWD GSA is approximately 4 to 5 taf.

<b>Year Type</b>	<b>Number</b> of Years	<b>Infiltration</b> of Applied Water (a)	Infiltration of Precipitation (b)	Infiltration of <b>Surface Water</b> (c)	<b>Groundwater</b> <b>Extraction (d)</b>	<b>Net</b> Recharge from SWS $(a+b+c-d)$
W	8	3,518	1,837	5,165	11,219	$-700$
AN	3	2,870	1,098	917	10,308	$-5,423$
<b>BN</b>	$\overline{2}$	2,629	726	26	10,409	$-7,028$
D	4	2,923	828	57	10,882	$-7,074$
C	9	3,408	951	107	12,110	$-7,644$
Annual						
Average						
$(1989 - 2014)$	26	3,245	1,204	1,743	11,308	$-5,116$

*Table A2.F.f-17. Historical Water Budget: Average Net Recharge from SWS by Water Year Type, 1989-2014 (Acre-Feet).*





# **Uncertainties in Water Budget Components**

Uncertainties associated with each water budget component were estimated as a percentage representing approximately a 95% confidence interval following the procedure described by Clemmens and Burt (1997). Uncertainties for all independently measured or estimated water budget components were estimated based on the measurement accuracy, typical values reported in technical literature, typical values calculated in other water budgets, and professional judgement.

Table A2.F.f-19 provides a summary of typical uncertainty values associated with major SWS inflow and outflow components. These uncertainties provide a basis for evaluating confidence in water budget results and help to identify data needs that may be addressed during GSP implementation.





# **Comparison of Historical Water Budget with NSWD GSA Individual GSP**

NSWD GSA is among the three GSAs that are each separately satisfying the requirements of SGMA by preparing individual GSPs. These individual GSPs have been prepared separately from this joint plan. A coordination agreement is being developed by all seven GSAs in the Madera Subbasin detailing required GSA and GSP cooperation and coordination.

To maintain consistent estimates of subbasin groundwater storage and overdraft conditions between the joint and individual GSPs, comparisons of historical surface water-groundwater exchanges have been prepared between the GSA-level historical water budgets from this coordinated plan and the historical water budgets from each of the three individual GSPs.

Table A2.F.f-20 provides a comparison between the NSWD GSA historical water budget developed as part of this coordinated plan and the NSWD GSA historical water budget developed by the District for its individual GSP. During the historical water budget period of 2003-2012, all flow paths compared between the two water budgets were within 1,000 AF/yr with the exception of estimated non-recoverable losses from precipitation. Whereas the individual GSP water budget assumed precipitation runoff to be a nonrecoverable loss, the coordinated GSP water budget assumed that much of this would provide recharge in local streams and rivers via infiltration. The net recharge from SWS within the District was estimated to be approximately -6,100 AF/yr and -4,300 AF/yr, as calculated for the NSWD GSA individual GSP and this coordinated GSP, respectively. This translates to a difference of less than 2,000 AF/yr, indicating fairly close correspondence between the plans, particularly in the context of the estimated -103,000 AF/yr total net recharge from SWS across the entire subbasin.

*Table A2.F.f-20. Comparison of Historical Water Budget Results between NSWD GSA Individual GSP and Joint GSP, 2003-2012.*

## **New Stone Water District**

### *Historical Water Budget - Average Annual Values*

*Period of Record: 2003-2012*



# **APPENDIX 2.F. WATER BUDGET INFORMATION**

# **2.F.g. Surface Water System Water Budget: Root Creek Water District GSA**

Prepared as part of the **Joint Groundwater Sustainability Plan Madera Subbasin**

January 2020

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#### <span id="page-671-0"></span>**INTRODUCTION** 1

To ensure sustainable groundwater management throughout California's groundwater basins, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA) requires Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to prepare and adopt Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) with strategies to achieve subbasin groundwater sustainability within 20 years of plan adoption. Integral to each GSP is a water budget used to quantify the subbasin's groundwater overdraft (if applicable) and sustainable yield.

In 2017, Root Creek Water District (RCWD) GSA formed to manage approximately 9,300 acres of the Madera Subbasin. This document presents results of the surface water system (SWS) water budgets developed for historical and current land use conditions in RCWD GSA. The RCWD GSA water budgets were integrated with separate water budgets developed for the other six (6) GSAs in Madera Subbasin to prepare a boundary water budget for the Madera Subbasin SWS. Results of the subbasin boundary water budget are reported in the Madera Subbasin GSP Section 2.2.3 and were integrated with a subbasin groundwater model (GSP Appendix 6.D) to estimate subbasin sustainable yield (GSP Section 2.2.3).

#### <span id="page-671-1"></span>**WATER BUDGET CONCEPTUAL MODEL**  $\mathbf{2}$

A water budget is defined as a complete accounting of all water flowing into and out of a defined volume (e.g., a subbasin or a GSA) over a specified period of time. The conceptual model (or structure) of the RCWD GSA water budget developed for this investigation is consistent with the GSP Regulations defined under Title 23 of California Code of Regulations<sup>[1](#page-671-2)</sup> (CCR) and adheres to sound water budget principles and practices defined by California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in the Water Budget Best Management Practice (BMP) guidelines (DWR, 2016).

The lateral extent of RCWD GSA is defined by the boundaries indicated in Figure A2.F.g-1. The vertical extent of RCWD GSA are the land surface (top) and the base of fresh water at the bottom of the basin (bottom), as described in the hydrogeologic conceptual model (HCM) developed in GSP Section 2.2.1. The vertical extent of Madera Subbasin and its GSAs is subdivided into a surface water system (SWS) and the underlying groundwater system (GWS), with separate but related water budgets prepared for each that together represent the overall subbasin water budget.

A conceptual representation of the RCWD GSA water budget is represented in Figure A2.F.g-2. This document details only the SWS portion of the RCWD GSA water budget. The SWS is divided into two primary accounting centers: the Land Surface System and the Rivers and Streams System. The Land Surface System is further divided into three accounting centers representing RCWD GSA's water use sectors: Agricultural Land, Native Vegetation Land, and Urban Land (urban, industrial, and semiagricultural).

Water budget components, or directional flow of water between accounting centers and across the SWS boundary, are indicated by arrows. Inflows and outflows were calculated using measurements and other historical data or were calculated as the water budget closure term – the difference between all other estimated or measured inflows and outflows from each accounting center or water use sector (bold arrows).

<span id="page-671-2"></span><sup>1</sup> California Code of Regulations Title 23. Waters, Division 2. Department of Water Resources, Chapter 1.5. Groundwater Management, Subchapter 2. Groundwater Sustainability Plans.







**Figure A2.F.g-2. Root Creek Water District GSA Water Budget Structure.**

Inflows to the SWS include precipitation, surface water inflows (in various canals and streams), and groundwater extraction. Outflows from the SWS include evapotranspiration (ET), surface water outflows (in various canals and streams), and infiltration to the groundwater system (seepage and deep percolation). Also represented in Figure A2.F.g-2 are inflows and outflows from the GWS, which are discussed and quantified at the subbasin level in the GWS water budget in GSP Section 2.2.3. Subsurface GWS inflows and outflows are not quantified on the water budget subregion scale.

Inflows and outflows were quantified following the process described in GSP Section 2.2.3 on a monthly time step for water years in the historical water budget base period (1989-2014 hydrologic and land use conditions), the current water budget (2015 land use using 1989-2014 average hydrologic conditions), and projected water budget. Four projected water budgets were prepared for the years 2019 through 2090 based on 1965 through 2015 hydrologic conditions:

- 1. Historical hydrologic conditions
	- a. Without projects and management actions, and
	- b. With projects and management actions
- 2. adjusted for anticipated climate change per DWR-provided 2030 climate change factors.

# <span id="page-674-0"></span>**WATER BUDGET ANALYSIS**

The historical water budget and current land use water budget for RCWD GSA are presented below following a summary of land use data relevant to water budget development. Land use data is provided for the 1989-2014 historical water budget period and for 2015, the land use period used for current water budget development.

# <span id="page-674-1"></span>**Land Use**

Land use estimates for 1989-2015 corresponding to water use sectors are summarized in Figure A2.F.g-3 and Table A2.F.g-1 for RCWD GSA. According to GSP Regulations (23 CCR § 351(al)):

*"Water use sector" refers to categories of water demand based on the general land uses to which the water is applied, including urban, industrial, agricultural, managed wetlands, managed recharge, and native vegetation.*

In RCWD GSA, water use sectors include agricultural, native vegetation, and urban land use. The urban land use category includes urban and semi-agricultural<sup>[2](#page-674-2)</sup> lands as well as industrial land, which covers only a small area in the subbasin.

The distribution of land between water use sectors remained relatively stable on average between 1989 and 2011. Since 2011, agricultural lands and urban lands in RCWD GSA expanded slightly while native vegetation decreased in area.

Agricultural land uses are further detailed in Figure A2.F.g-4 and Table A2.F.g-2. Between 1989 and 2011, agriculture in RCWD GSA has been dominated by orchard, citrus, and subtropical fruit tree crops. Since 2011, citrus and subtropical crops have decreased while orchard crops have expanded.

<span id="page-674-2"></span> $<sup>2</sup>$  As defined in the DWR county land use surveys, semi-agricultural land use subclasses include farmsteads,</sup> livestock feed lot operations, dairies, poultry farms, and miscellaneous semi-agricultural land use incidental to agriculture (small roads, ditches, non-planted areas of cropped fields (DWR, 2009).



**Figure A2.F.g-3. Root Creek Water District GSA Land Use Areas.**







<sup>1</sup> Area includes land classified as native vegetation and water surfaces.

<sup>2</sup> Area includes land classified as urban, industrial, and semi-agricultural.



**Figure A2.F.g-4. Root Creek Water District GSA Agricultural Land Use Areas.**

<b>Water Year</b>	<b>Citrus and</b>		<b>Grain and</b>			<b>Misc. Field</b>	<b>Misc. Truck</b>		<b>Pasture and</b>	
(Type)	<b>Subtropical</b>	Corn	<b>Hay Crops</b>	<b>Grapes</b>	Idle	<b>Crops</b>	<b>Crops</b>	Orchard	<b>Alfalfa</b>	<b>Total</b>
1989 (C)	3,020	0	152	391	656	44	5	3,219	670	8,157
1990 (C)	3,115	0	171	389	385	48	28	3,386	651	8,173
1991 (C)	3,407	0	136	401	185	$\overline{55}$	$\overline{13}$	3,458	534	8,190
1992 (C)	3,403	0	149	423	115	54	20	3,545	498	8,206
1993 (W)	3,437	0	148	432	146	55	26	3,603	370	8,216
1994 (C)	3,510	0	94	457	176	54	61	3,588	286	8,226
1995 (W)	3,300	0	211	462	71	54	10	3,933	199	8,240
1996 (W)	3,527	16	114	481	36	110	24	3,708	227	8,245
1997 (W)	3,526	0	113	492	49	75	39	3,732	224	8,250
1998 (W)	3,339	0	65	497	264	78	69	3,752	191	8,255
1999 (AN)	,583	0	$\overline{27}$	938	1,387	80	247	3,813	185	8,260
2000 (AN)	3,522	0	85	517		$\overline{97}$	19	3,845	178	8,265
2001 (D)	3,508	0	129	488	6	133	21	3,813	173	8,270
2002 (D)	3,594		100	529	9	84	$\overline{27}$	3,754	156	8,260
2003 (BN)	3,467	$\overline{18}$	95	565	50	81	48	3,787	139	8,251
2004 (D)	3,138	$\overline{32}$	113	594	124	85	121	3,912	122	8,241
2005 (W)	3,415	27	158	569	147	69	83	3,659	105	8,231
2006 (W)	3,122	36	167	548	533	46	169	3,513	88	8,222
2007 (C)	3,179	88	159	584	490	28	170	3,444	71	8,212
2008 (C)	2,922	134	213	668	728	6	33	3,444	54	8,202
2009 (BN)	2,552	50	206	593	1,336		61	3,356	36	8,192
2010 (AN)	2,601	63	309	625	1,208	5	68	3,285	19	8,183
2011 (W)	3,749	61	334	534	0	$\mathbf 0$	71	3,422	$\overline{2}$	8,173
2012 (D)	2,034	733	369	494	480	9	224	3,575	344	8,262
2013 (C)	1,736	534	589	454	875	6	246	3,815	97	8,351
2014 (C)	3,175	3	255	414	454	42	$\overline{23}$	4,075	$\Omega$	8,441
2015 (C)	1,702	0	557	467	223	1	654	4,811	85	8,499
Average $(1989 - 2014)$	3,111	69	179	521	381	54	74	3,632	216	8,237

*Table A2.F.g-2. Root Creek Water District GSA Agricultural Land Use Areas (Acres).*

# <span id="page-678-0"></span>**Surface Water System Water Budget**

This section presents surface water system water budget components within RCWD GSA as per GSP regulations. These are followed by a summary of the water budget results by accounting center.

### <span id="page-678-1"></span>3.2.1 Inflows

### <span id="page-678-2"></span>3.2.1.1 Surface Water Inflow by Water Source Type

Surface water inflows include surface water flowing into the basin across the basin boundary. Per the Regulations, surface inflows must be reported by water source type. According to the Regulations:

*"Water source type" represents the source from which water is derived to meet the applied beneficial uses, including groundwater, recycled water, reused water, and surface water sources identified as Central Valley Project, the State Water Project, the Colorado River Project, local supplies, and local imported supplies.*

Additionally, runoff of precipitation from upgradient areas adjacent to the subregion represents a potential source of surface water inflow.

### *Local Supplies*

RCWD GSA receives local supplies in the form of riparian diversions to agricultural lands, including lands with holding contracts, from the San Joaquin River. Measured deliveries were available beginning in 2010. Prior to 2010, riparian deliveries were estimated as the average monthly deliveries of years with available data.

### *Local Imported Supplies*

RCWD GSA does not receive local imported supplies for irrigation purposes.

### *CVP Supplies*

Between 1989 and 2014, RCWD GSA did not receive CVP supplies for irrigation purposes.

### *Recycling and Reuse*

Recycling and reuse are not a significant source of supply within RCWD GSA.

### *Other Surface Inflows*

For the water budgets presented herein, precipitation runoff from outside the subregion is considered relatively minimal and is expected to pass through the waterways accounted above following relatively large storm events. Precipitation runoff from lands inside the subregion is internal to the surface water system and is thus not considered as surface inflows to the subregion boundary.

### *Summary of Surface Inflows*

Surface water inflows are summarized by water source type in Figure A2.F.g-5 and Table A2.F.g-3. Between 1989 and 2014, the only surface water inflows to RCWD GSA were riparian deliveries from San Joaquin River directly to agricultural lands, averaging approximately 1.9 taf per year during this period. No CVP supplies or imported supplies were received by the district during this period, and no waterways are considered to transverse the boundaries of RCWD GSA. The San Joaquin River serves as part of the

RCWD GSA boundary and is thus not considered as surface inflow to the GSA, although boundary seepage from the San Joaquin River is considered in net recharge calculations below.



**Figure A2.F.g-5. Root Creek Water District GSA Surface Water Inflows by Water Source Type.**







1CVP Supply is considered as all water supply released from CVP storage facilities. The volume of CVP Supply includes CVP deliveries to CVP contractors/water users, and flood releases from CVP facilities that largely pass through the subbasin.

### <span id="page-680-0"></span>3.2.1.2 Precipitation

Precipitation estimates for the RCWD GSA are provided in Figure A2.F.g-6 and Table A2.F.g-4. Precipitation estimates are reported by water use sector.

Total precipitation is variable between years in the study area, ranging from approximately 7 taf (8.6 inches) during critical years to 11 taf (14.4 inches) during wet years.



**Figure A2.F.g-6. Root Creek Water District GSA Precipitation by Water Use Sector.**







# <span id="page-682-0"></span>3.2.1.3 Groundwater Extraction by Water Use Sector

Estimates of groundwater extraction by water use sector are provided in Figure A2.F.g-7 and Table A2.F.g-5. For agricultural and urban (urban, semi-agricultural, industrial) lands, groundwater extraction represents pumping, while for native lands, groundwater extraction by riparian vegetation was considered to be negligible. For all water use sectors, groundwater extraction served as the water budget closure term. Groundwater extraction varies between years depending on surface water supplies and crop water demands or urban land consumptive use requirements. Between 1989 and 2014, average total groundwater extraction was approximately 22 taf per year.



**Figure A2.F.g-7. Root Creek Water District GSA Groundwater Extraction by Water Use Sector.**



### *Table A2.F.g-5. Root Creek Water District GSA Groundwater Extraction by Water Use Sector (Acre-Feet).*

### <span id="page-683-0"></span>3.2.1.4 Groundwater Discharge to Surface Water Sources

The depth to groundwater is greater than 100-200 ft across much of the Madera Subbasin. Given the depth to the water table in the Madera Subbasin, groundwater discharge to surface water sources is negligible.
#### 3.2.2 Outflows

#### 3.2.2.1 Evapotranspiration by Water Use Sector

Evapotranspiration (ET) by water use sector is reported in Figures A2.F.g-8 to A2.F.g-10 and Tables A2.F.g-6 to A2.F.g-8. First, total ET is reported, followed by ET from applied water and ET from precipitation.

Total ET varies between years but has remained generally steady over time. Total ET ranges from a low of approximately 22 taf in 1999 to a high of 29 taf in 1992.



**Figure A2.F.g-8. Root Creek Water District GSA Evapotranspiration by Water Use Sector.**









**Figure A2.F.g-9. Root Creek Water District GSA Evapotranspiration of Applied Water by Water Use Sector.**



#### *Table A2.F.g-7. Root Creek Water District GSA Evapotranspiration of Applied Water by Water Use Sector (Acre-Feet).*



**Figure A2.F.g-10. Root Creek Water District GSA Evapotranspiration of Precipitation by Water Use Sector.**

<i><b>USE SECIOF [ACFE-FEEL].</b></i>							
<b>Water Year (Type)</b>	<b>Agricultural</b>	<b>Native Vegetation</b>	<b>Urban</b>	<b>Total</b>			
1989 (C)	5,480	910	120	6,510			
1990 (C)	5,760	880	120	6,760			
1991 (C)	4,840	790	100	5,730			
1992 (C)	5,100	950	110	6,160			
1993 (W)	6,790	930	110	7,830			
1994 (C)	4,900	730	90	5,720			
1995 (W)	8,080	890	110	9,080			
1996 (W)	6,340	950	100	7,390			
1997 (W)	5,180	840	80	6,100			
1998 (W)	7,030	790	70	7,890			
1999 (AN)	3,950	700	60	4,710			
2000 (AN)	5,420	810	50	6,280			
2001 (D)	5,400	870	50	6,320			
2002(D)	4,820	830	50	5,700			
2003 (BN)	4,520	660	50	5,230			
2004 (D)	3,910	730	50	4,690			
2005 (W)	5,990	800	70	6,860			
2006 (W)	6,220	870	80	7,170			
2007 (C)	3,100	660	70	3,830			
2008 (C)	4,140	690	70	4,900			
2009 (BN)	3,980	560	70	4,610			
2010 (AN)	6,200	780	90	7,070			

*Table A2.F.g-8. Root Creek Water District GSA Evapotranspiration of Precipitation by Water Use Sector (Acre-Feet).*



In addition to ET from land surfaces, estimates of evaporation from rivers and streams are reported in Figure A2.F.g-11 and Table A2.F.g-9. Evaporation from the Rivers and Streams System includes evaporation of both surface inflows and of precipitation runoff within local sloughs and depressions. Evaporation is highest in wet years when precipitation runoff is typically higher, though in all years evaporation averages less than 0.1 taf.



**Figure A2.F.g-11. Root Creek Water District GSA Evaporation from the Surface Water System.**



#### *Table A2.F.g-9. Root Creek Water District GSA Evaporation from the Surface Water System (Acre-Feet).*

<sup>1</sup> Includes evaporation of surface inflows and of precipitation runoff.

#### 3.2.2.2 Surface Water Outflow by Water Source Type

No significant surface water sources are considered to enter or leave RCWD GSA. Runoff of applied water is assumed negligible and runoff of precipitation is expected to reenter the groundwater system through infiltration within the GSA boundaries.

#### 3.2.2.3 Infiltration of Precipitation

Estimated infiltration of precipitation (deep percolation of precipitation) by water use sector is provided in Figure A2.F.g-12 and Table A2.F.g-10. Infiltration of precipitation to the groundwater system is highly variable from year to year due to variation in the timing and amount of precipitation, ranging from over 3.3 taf on average during wet years to less than 1.6 taf annually during dry and critical year types.



**Figure A2.F.g-12. Root Creek Water District GSA Infiltration of Precipitation by Water Use Sector.**

Sector [Acre-reet].							
<b>Water Year (Type)</b>	Agricultural	<b>Native Vegetation</b>	<b>Urban</b>	<b>Total</b>			
1989 (C)	2,160	230	50	2,440			
1990 (C)	1,720	190	40	1,950			
1991 (C)	2,770	330	50	3,150			
1992 (C)	1,360	120	30	1,510			
1993 (W)	3,620	470	60	4,150			
1994 (C)	1,170	120	20	1,310			
1995 (W)	4,180	800	70	5,050			
1996 (W)	2,050	280	40	2,370			
1997 (W)	3,670	610	60	4,340			
1998 (W)	3,680	560	50	4,290			
1999 (AN)	860	80	10	950			
2000 (AN)	1,640	170	20	1,830			
2001 (D)	1,410	130	10	1,550			
2002 (D)	1,440	120	10	1,570			
2003 (BN)	970	90	10	1,070			
2004 (D)	760	50	10	820			
2005 (W)	1,600	150	20	1,770			
2006 (W)	2,130	270	30	2,430			
2007 (C)	570	60	10	640			
2008 (C)	1,050	80	20	1,150			
2009 (BN)	740	50	10	800			
2010 (AN)	1,790	250	40	2,080			

*Table A2.F.g-10. Root Creek Water District GSA Infiltration of Precipitation by Water Use Sector (Acre-Feet).*



#### 3.2.2.4 Infiltration of Surface Water

Estimated infiltration of surface water (seepage) by source is provided in Figure A2.F.g-13 and Table A2.F.g-11. Seepage from the Rivers and Streams System includes seepage of both surface inflows and of precipitation runoff into local sloughs and depressions. Seepage from rivers and streams within the GSA boundaries is attributed to precipitation runoff and thus follows the same pattern as runoff. While flows in the San Joaquin River were not accounted directly as water budget components<sup>[3](#page-691-0)</sup>, boundary seepage from the San Joaquin River contributes an additional 2 taf per year on average to net recharge in RCWD GSA.



**Figure A2.F.g-13. Root Creek Water District GSA Infiltration of Surface Water.**

<span id="page-691-0"></span><sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The San Joaquin River does not cross the lateral boundaries of the Madera Subbasin, as defined above. Thus, San Joaquin River flows are not considered surface water inflows within this water budget. A portion of infiltration of surface water from the San Joaquin River is considered to cross the subbasin boundaries into the groundwater system and is included in the calculation of the subbasin estimates of overdraft and net recharge from SWS.





<sup>1</sup> Includes infiltration of surface inflows and of precipitation runoff.

#### 3.2.2.5 Infiltration of Applied Water

Estimated infiltration of applied water (deep percolation of applied water) by water use sector is provided in Figure A2.F.g-14 and Table A2.F.g-12. During all years, infiltration of applied water was dominated by agricultural irrigation, which generally decreased from the mid-1990s through 2014 following gradual increases in orchard crops. Between 1989 and 2014, agricultural applied water provided an average of approximately 4.6 taf per year to the groundwater system.



**Figure A2.F.g-14. Root Creek Water District GSA Infiltration of Applied Water by Water Use Sector.**



#### *Table A2.F.g-12. Root Creek Water District GSA Infiltration of Applied Water by Water Use Sector (Acre-Feet).*

### 3.2.3 Change in Surface Water System Storage

Estimates of change in SWS storage are provided in Figure A2.F.g-15 and Table A2.F.g-13. Inter-annual changes in storage within the surface water system consist primarily of root zone soil moisture storage changes, are relatively small, and tend to average near zero over many years.



**Figure A2.F.g-15. Root Creek Water District GSA Change in Surface Water System Storage.**







### **Historical Water Budget Summary**

Annual inflows, outflows, and change in SWS storage during the historical water budget period (1989- 2014) are summarized in Figure A2.F.g-16 and Table A2.F.g-14. Inflows are shown as positive values, while outflows and change in SWS storage are shown as negative values. Review of the variability in component volumes across years provides insight into the impacts of hydrology on the surface water system water budget.



**Figure A2.F.g-16. Root Creek Water District GSA Surface Water System Historical Water Budget, 1989- 2014.**



### *Table A2.F.g-14. Root Creek Water District GSA Surface Water System Historical Water Budget, 1989-2014 (Acre-Feet).*

<sup>1</sup>Includes ET of applied water, ET of precipitation, and evaporation from rivers and streams.

#### **Current Water Budget Summary**  $3.4$

The current water budget was developed following a similar process to the historical water budget using the 2015 land use in Table 1 and the same 1989-2014 average hydrologic conditions of the historical base period, including surface water flows, precipitation, and weather parameters. This allowed quantification of groundwater inflows and outflows for current consumptive use in the context of average water supply conditions.

Annual inflows, outflows, and change in SWS storage from the current water budget are summarized in Figure A2.F.g-17 and Table A2.F.g-15. Inflows are shown as positive values, while outflows and change in SWS storage are shown as negative values.



**Figure A2.F.g-17. Root Creek Water District GSA Surface Water System Current Water Budget, 1989-2014.**



#### *Table A2.F.g-15. Root Creek Water District GSA Surface Water System Current Water Budget, 1989-2014 (Acre-Feet).*

<sup>1</sup>Includes ET of applied water, ET of precipitation, and evaporation from rivers and streams.

### **Net Recharge from SWS**

Overdraft is defined in DWR Bulletin 118 as "the condition of a groundwater basin or subbasin in which the amount of water withdrawn by pumping exceeds the amount of water that recharges the basin over a period of years, during which the water supply conditions approximate average conditions" (DWR 2003). The Madera Subbasin water budget indicates that overdraft conditions occurred during the 1989-2014 historical base period. Per 23 CCR Section 354.18(b)(5), the subbasin overdraft has been quantified for this base period. The evaluation of overdraft conditions includes estimates of recharge from subsurface flows. However, estimates of recharge from subsurface flows are less accurate when estimated for areas less that an entire subbasin. Thus, for estimates of GSA level contribution to overdraft, the term net recharge from the SWS is defined as groundwater recharge minus groundwater extraction. Net recharge from the SWS is useful for understanding and analyzing the combined effects of land surface processes on the underlying GWS.

When calculated from the historical water budget, average net recharge from the SWS represents the average recharge (when positive) or shortage of recharge (when negative) based on historical cropping, land use practices, and average hydrologic conditions. When calculated from the current land use water budget, average net recharge represents the average recharge or shortage (negative net recharge) based on current cropping, land use practices, and average hydrologic conditions.

Average net recharge from the SWS is presented below for the RCWD GSA portion of the Madera Subbasin. Table A2.F.g-16 shows the average net recharge from the SWS for 1989-2014 based on the historical water budget, and Table A2.F.g-17 shows the same for the current water budget. Under historical and current land use conditions, average annual shortage from RCWD GSA is approximately 13 to 14 taf.

<b>Year Type</b>	<b>Number</b> of Years	<b>Infiltration</b> of Applied Water (a)	Infiltration of <b>Precipitation</b> (b)	Infiltration of Surface Water <sup>1</sup> (C)	Groundwater <b>Extraction (d)</b>	<b>Net Recharge</b> from SWS $(a+b+c-d)$
W	8	5,040	3,340	2,450	21,750	$-10,920$
AN	3	3,720	1,620	2,100	19,360	$-11,920$
<b>BN</b>	$\overline{2}$	3,700	930	2,160	22,070	$-15,280$
D	4	4,590	1,170	1,910	24,800	$-17,130$
C	9	4,640	1,540	2,240	23,120	$-14,700$
Annual Average $(1989 - 2014)$	26	4,580	2,000	2,230	22,440	$-13,630$

*Table A2.F.g-16. Historical Water Budget: Average Net Recharge from SWS by Water Year Type, 1989-2014 (Acre-Feet).*

<sup>1</sup> Includes infiltration from the Rivers and Streams System and boundary seepage from San Joaquin River.





<sup>1</sup> Includes infiltration from the Rivers and Streams System and boundary seepage from San Joaquin River.

### **Uncertainties in Water Budget Components**

Uncertainties associated with each water budget component were estimated as a percentage representing approximately a 95% confidence interval following the procedure described by Clemmens and Burt (1997). Uncertainties for all independently measured or estimated water budget components were estimated based on the measurement accuracy, typical values reported in technical literature, typical values calculated in other water budgets, and professional judgement.

Table A2.F.g-18 provides a summary of typical uncertainty values associated with major SWS inflow and outflow components. These uncertainties provide a basis for evaluating confidence in water budget results and help to identify data needs that may be addressed during GSP implementation.

Flowpath <b>Direction</b> (SWS Boundary)	<b>Water Budget</b> Component	<b>Data Source</b>	<b>Estimated</b> <b>Uncertainty</b> (%)	<b>Source</b>
	Riparian <b>Deliveries</b>	Measurement	10%	Estimated measurement accuracy.
Inflows	Precipitation	Calculation	30%	Clemmens, A.J. and C.M. Burt, 1997.
	Groundwater Extraction	Closure	20%	Typical uncertainty calculated for Land Surface System water balance closure.
<b>Outflows</b>	Evaporation	Calculation	20%	Estimated accuracy of calculation based on CIMIS reference ET and free water surface evaporation coefficient.
	ET of Applied Water	Calculation	10%	Estimated accuracy of daily IDC root zone water budget component based on CIMIS reference ET, estimated crop coefficients from SEBAL energy balance, and annual land use.
	ET of Precipitation	Calculation	10%	Estimated accuracy of daily IDC root zone water budget component based on CIMIS reference ET, precipitation, estimated crop coefficients from SEBAL energy balance, and annual land use.
	Infiltration of Applied Water	Calculation	20%	Estimated accuracy of daily IDC root zone water budget component based on annual land use and NRCS soils characteristics.
	Infiltration of Precipitation	Calculation	20%	Estimated accuracy of daily IDC root zone water budget component based on annual land use, NRCS soils characteristics, and CIMIS precipitation.
	Infiltration of Surface Water	Calculation	15%	Estimated accuracy of daily seepage calculation using NRCS soils characteristics and calculated runoff of precipitation.
	Change in SWS Storage	Calculation	50%	Professional Judgment.
Net Recharge from SWS		Calculation	25%	Estimated water budget accuracy; typical value calculated for GSA-level net recharge from SWS.

*Table A2.F.g-18. Estimated Uncertainty of GSA Water Budget Components.*

#### **Comparison of Historical Water Budget with RCWD GSA Individual GSP**  $3.7$

RCWD GSA is among the three GSAs that are each separately satisfying the requirements of SGMA by preparing individual GSPs. These individual GSPs have been prepared separately from this joint plan. A coordination agreement is being developed by all seven GSAs in the Madera Subbasin detailing required GSA and GSP cooperation and coordination.

To maintain consistent estimates of subbasin groundwater storage and overdraft conditions between the joint and individual GSPs, comparisons of historical surface water-groundwater exchanges have been prepared between the GSA-level historical water budgets from this coordinated plan and the historical water budgets from each of the three individual GSPs.

Table A2.F.g-19 provides a comparison between the RCWD GSA historical water budget developed as part of this coordinated plan and the RCWD GSA historical water budget developed by the District for its individual GSP. During the historical water budget period of 1989-2014, the total estimated groundwater recharge between the two water budgets is within 500 AF/yr. The net difference in water supplies and nonrecoverable losses is within 3,000 AF/yr, as the individual GSP water budget estimates greater supply (7000 AF/yr greater than coordinated GSP), but also greater nonrecoverable losses (3,630 AF/yr).

The net recharge from the SWS within the District was estimated to be approximately -10,800 AF/yr and -13,600 AF/yr, as calculated in the RCWD GSA individual GSP and this coordinated GSP, respectively. This translates to a difference of approximately 2,800 AF/yr, which is within the estimated range of the coordinated GSP net recharge estimate. These values indicate fairly close correspondence between the plans, particularly in the context of the estimated total net recharge from SWS across the entire subbasin, which exceeds -100,000 AF/yr.

*Table A2.F.g-19. Comparison of Historical Water Budget Results between RCWD GSA Individual GSP and Joint GSP.*

#### **Root Creek Water District**

*Water Budget - Average Annual Values*

*Period of Record: (1989-2014)*



## **APPENDIX 2.F. WATER BUDGET INFORMATION**

### **2.F.h. Daily Reference Evapotranspiration and Precipitation Quality Control**

Prepared as part of the **Joint Groundwater Sustainability Plan Madera Subbasin**

January 2020

**GSP Team:**

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# <span id="page-708-0"></span>**1 PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to describe the development of daily reference evapotranspiration ( $ET_{ref}$ ) and precipitation values for water years 1989 through 2015 for use to determine consumptive use of irrigation water. The Study Area is the Madera groundwater basin.

This report describes the methodology for developing ET<sub>ref</sub> and precipitation records, the results and the findings.

# <span id="page-708-1"></span>**2 METHODOLOGY**

Scientifically sound and widely accepted methods for determining consumptive use of irrigation water utilize daily ET<sub>ref</sub> determined using the standardized Penman-Monteith (PM) method as described by the ASCE Task Committee Report on the Standardized Reference Evapotranspiration Equation (ASCE-EWRI, 2005). The PM method requires measurements of incoming solar radiation  $(R_s)$ , air temperature  $(T_a)$ , relative humidity (RH) and wind speed ( $W_s$ ) at hourly or daily time steps. The task committee report standardizes the ASCE PM method for application to a full-cover alfalfa reference (ETr) and to a clipped cool season grass reference ( $ET_0$ ). The clipped cool season grass reference is widely used throughout the western United States and was selected for this application. Additionally, the Task Committee Report provides recommended methods for estimating required inputs to the standardized equation when measured data are unavailable. The remainder of this section describes an inventory of weather stations and available data, weather data quality control (QC), and the methods used to estimate  $ET_0$ .

## <span id="page-708-2"></span>**2.1 Weather Data Inventory**

Weather data from irrigated areas are needed to develop estimates of consumptive use of irrigation water. Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) provide measurements of  $R_s$ ,  $T_a$ , RH and W<sub>s</sub> over hourly or shorter periods used to compute ET<sub>0</sub>. AWS data are often available from state extension services and weather station networks. Prior to the advent of the AWS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) stations recorded daily minimum and maximum air temperatures and daily precipitation. Data from these NOAA stations are available from the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) formerly National Climatic Data Center (NCDC).

In recent years, several gridded climate data sets have become available for public use. Daymet and PRISM (Parameter-elevation Relationships on Independent Slopes Model) are two of the more wellknown data sets. The gridded estimates are developed by a collection of algorithms that interpolate and extrapolate from daily meteorological observations at available weather stations. Generally, the gridded estimates do not include all necessary parameters to calculate  $ET_0$ . PRISM<sup>[1](#page-708-3)</sup> provides estimates for precipitation, daily maximum air temperature, daily minimum air temperature and daily average dewpoint temperature by interpolating between weather stations based on the physiographic similarity of the station to the grid cell.

For developing  $ET_0$  values to use in determining crop water depletions, the weather data used must represent irrigated agriculture. This is because ET from irrigated areas in arid regions is generally lower than that from surrounding not irrigated areas. The evaporation process tends to both cool and humidify the near-surface boundary layer over irrigated fields. This cooling and humidifying effect tends to reduce ET rates, including the reference ET estimate, and should be considered when calculating reference ET.

<span id="page-708-3"></span> <sup>1</sup> <http://www.prism.oregonstate.edu/> accessed on May 18, 2014.

Weather stations used to develop the gridded data are from both irrigated and not irrigated areas. For this reason, AWS inside the irrigated area are the preferred source for weather data to calculate ET<sub>o</sub> for use in determining consumptive use of irrigation water.

A complete inventory of weather stations both inside and near irrigated areas was conducted to select the most appropriate weather station, or stations, for the historical crop water consumptive use analysis.

## <span id="page-709-0"></span>**2.2 Weather Data Quality Control**

Accurate estimation of consumptive use of irrigation water requires accurate and representative weather data. Weather data from each station were reviewed and corrected when necessary, following accepted, scientific procedures (Allen, et al 1996, Allen, et al, 1998, ASCE-EWRI, 2005 and ASCE, 2016). Daily data obtained for the AWS stations were quality checked using spreadsheets and graphs of weather data parameters for analysis and application of quality control methods according to the guidelines specified in Appendix-D of the ASCE Task Committee Report on the Standardized Reference Evapotranspiration Equation (ASCE-EWRI, 2005). Quality control procedures applied to R<sub>s</sub>, T<sub>a</sub>, RH and W<sub>s</sub> are briefly described in the following sections.

### <span id="page-709-1"></span>2.2.1 Solar Radiation

Solar radiation data were quality controlled by plotting measured  $R_s$  and computed clear sky envelopes of solar radiation on cloudless days ( $R_{so}$ ) for hourly or daily time steps (Allen, et al 1996, Allen, et al, 1998, ASCE-EWRI, 2005 and ASCE, 2016). Recommended equations for R<sub>so</sub> that include the influence of sun angle, turbidity, atmospheric thickness, and precipitable water were used. The measured  $R_s$  should reach the clear sky envelope on cloud-free days. On cloudy or hazy days, the measured  $R_s$  will not reach the clear sky envelope. Measured R<sub>s</sub> values that consistently fall above or below the curve indicate improper calibration or other problems, such as the presence of dust, bird droppings or something else on the sensor. Values for R<sub>s</sub> that were found to be consistently above or below R<sub>so</sub> on clear days were adjusted by dividing  $R_s$  by the average value of  $R_s/R_{so}$  on clear days at intervals of 60-day groupings for daily data and 30-day periods for hourly data. The values resulting from these adjustments were carefully reviewed for reasonableness of the adjustments.

### <span id="page-709-2"></span>2.2.2 Air Temperature

Air temperature is the simplest weather parameter to measure and the parameter most likely to be of high quality (Allen, et al 1996, Allen, et al, 1998, ASCE-EWRI, 2005 and ASCE, 2016). Nevertheless, daily maximum and minimum air temperatures were plotted together vs. time, and the extreme values were compared against historical extremes. Temperatures that consistently exceed the recorded extremes for a region may indicate a problem with the sensor or environment and may need to be adjusted based on air temperatures collected at a nearby station.

### <span id="page-709-3"></span>2.2.3 Relative Humidity

Daily maximum and minimum relative humidity values were plotted and examined for values chronically lower than five to ten percent and values that were consistently over 100 percent (Allen, et al 1996, Allen, et al, 1998, ASCE-EWRI, 2005 and ASCE, 2016). Additionally, relative humidity was checked on days having recorded rainfall to confirm that the measured maximum RH values approached 90 to 100 percent. Where necessary, reasonable adjustments such as setting all values above 100 percent equal to 100 percent were made.

### <span id="page-710-0"></span>2.2.4 Wind Speed

Wind speed records were plotted and visually inspected for consistently low wind speed values (Allen, et al 1996, Allen, et al, 1998, ASCE-EWRI, 2005 and ASCE, 2016). Low wind speeds can indicate dirty or worn anemometer bearings that lead to failure of the anemometer. Any period of more than thirty days with wind speeds below 1.0 meters per second was compared to available nearby stations and, if the wind speed at the nearby station did not indicate a period of unusually low wind speeds, adjusted based on the nearby station.

## <span id="page-710-1"></span>**3 RESULTS**

This section describes the results of an inventory of weather stations and available data, weather data quality control, and  $ET_0$  estimates.

#### <span id="page-710-2"></span>**3.1 Weather Station Inventory**

Table 2A.F.h-1 lists the stations and time periods used for the Madera Subbasin weather data.





### <span id="page-710-3"></span>**3.2 Weather Data Quality Control**

Hourly checks and necessary adjustments performed on AWS station data and daily checks are described in the following sections. However, the following sections only include examples of common data adjustments observed in the quality-controlling process. A complete list of adjustments can be found in Attachment A.

### <span id="page-710-4"></span>3.2.1 Solar Radiation

CIMIS AWS solar radiation data were generally of good quality, but it was apparent that some records required adjustment to fall within reasonable bounds. Two different types of quality control were performed on the solar radiation data. First, there are time periods in certain years where there is an obvious drop or rise in solar radiation values which cause them to fall significantly above or below the expected values. One instance of an unreasonable, sudden drop in solar radiation occurred in 1996 at the Madera CIMIS station. This is displayed in Figure 2A.F.h-1 below. This data was then adjusted up by a factor of 1.08, and the calibrated data is displayed in Figure 2A.F.h-2 below.



**Figure 2A.F.h-1: Daily Solar Radiation (Ly/day) for Madera CIMIS station (#145) for 1996 before QC.**



**Figure 2A.F.h-2: Daily Solar Radiation (Ly/day) for Madera CIMIS station (#145) for 1996 after QC.**

### <span id="page-712-0"></span>3.2.2 Air Temperature

For the most part, CIMIS AWS air temperature data were consistent and followed expected values and behavior. However, adjustments were applied to some data points to more closely reflect the expected temperatures within the seasons for each year. There were two common problems observed within this parameter: missing data points and minimum temperatures automatically being assigned a value of 32 degrees Fahrenheit. The latter is made obvious by the season in which the data points reside, and the difference between this point and those immediately before and after. Examples of both issues are displayed in Figure 2A.F.h-3. Missing data points were filled in with a value of the corresponding parameter from a nearby CIMIS station. The same process was applied to the points that were automatically set to 32 degrees Fahrenheit. The adjusted data can be observed in Figure 2A.F.h-4.



**Figure 2A.F.h-3: Average, Maximum, and Minimum Daily Temperatures (DegF) for Fresno State CIMIS station (#80) for 1992 before QC.**



**Figure 2A.F.h-4: Average, Maximum, and Minimum Daily Temperatures (DegF) for Fresno State CIMIS station (#80) for 1992 after QC.**

### <span id="page-713-0"></span>3.2.3 Relative Humidity

CIMIS AWS Relative Humidity (RH) data was analyzed for all of the time period and station combinations listed in Table 2A.F.h-1 above and the necessary adjustments were made. Maximum RH at night commonly approaches 60% during the summer period and 100% during the winter period. When values fall significantly below this expected range of values (Figure 2A.F.h-5), it can be concluded that the RH sensor is in need of calibration or to be replaced and the data need to be adjusted. In years when this trend was observed, such as for the Madera station in 2005, the data was adjusted (Figure 2A.F.h-6).



**Figure 2A.F.h-5: Average, Maximum, and Minimum Daily Temperature (DegF) for Madera CIMIS station (#145) for 2005 before QC.**





### <span id="page-715-0"></span>3.2.4 Wind Speed

CIMIS AWS wind speed data were generally reasonable and usually followed expected ranges and patterns, with lower values during nighttime and higher values during the day. To calculate ET<sub>o</sub>, all hourly wind speed values less than 0.5 m/s were set to 0.5 m/s, following the recommendation in ASCE-EWRI (2005), Appendix E, to represent a floor on wind movement and equilibrium boundary layer stability effects in the Penman-Monteith equation. A graphical example of this quality-control as it is applied to Madera windspeed data in the year 2000, can be observed in Figures 2A.F.h-7 (unadjusted data) and 2A.F.h-8 (adjusted data).



**Figure 2A.F.h-7: Average Windspeed (mph) for Madera CIMIS station (#145) for 2000 before qualitycontrolling.**



**Figure 2A.F.h-8: Average Windspeed (mph) for Madera CIMIS station (#145) for 2000 after qualitycontrolling.**

### <span id="page-716-0"></span>3.2.5 ETo Results Summary

The average water year ET<sub>o</sub> for 1989 – 2015 was 55.34 inches and ranged from 50.64 inches in 1995 to 59.79 inches in 2004. This indicates that the differences in the average  $ET_0$  values computed from the weather data collected at the various stations (Table 2A.F.h-2) is most likely due to natural and expected variability in the record.

<b>Weather Station</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>	<b>Average Water</b> Year ET <sub>o</sub> , inches	<b>Minimum</b> Water Year ET <sub>o</sub> , inches	<b>Maximum Water</b> Year ET <sub>o</sub> , inches
Fresno State	Oct. 1, 1988	May 12, 1998	55.13	50.64 (1995)	59.27 (1992)
Madera	May 13, 1998	Apr. 2, 2013	55.67	52.56 (2011)	59.79 (2004)
Madera II	Apr. 3, 2013	Dec. 31, 2015	55.51	53.79 (2014)	57.24 (2015)
Overall	Oct. 2, 1988	Dec. 31, 2015	55.34	50.64	59.79

*Table2A.F.h- 2. Weather Data Time Series Summary for the period 1989 – 2015.*

Water year ET<sub>o</sub> totals for the complete 1989 to 2015 period are included in Attachment 2A.F.h-A.

#### <span id="page-717-0"></span>3.2.6 Precipitation Results Summary

The 26-year average water year precipitation from 1989 to 2015, was 10.11 inches, varying from 3.59 inches in 2014 to 19.62 inches in 1995 (Table 2A.F.h-3).

<b>Weather Station</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>	Water Average Year Rainfall, inches	<b>Minimum</b> Water Rainfall, Year inches	<b>Maximum Water</b> Year Rainfall, inches
Fresno State	Oct. 1, 1988	May 12, 1998	12.76	9.14 (1994)	19.62 (1995)
Madera	May 13, 1998	Apr. 2, 2013	8.98	4.35 (2012)	12.79 (2006)
Madera II	Apr. 3, 2013	Dec. 31, 2015	4.25	3.59(2014)	4.90 (2015)
Overall	Oct. 2, 1988	Dec. 31, 2015	10.11	3.59(2014)	19.62 (1995)

*Table2A.F.h-3. Water Year Precipitation Statistics for 1989-2015.*

Water year rainfall totals for the complete 1989 to 2015 period are included in Attachment 2A.F.h-B.

## <span id="page-717-1"></span>**4 FINDINGS**

All weather stations in the Madera Subbasin are located in agricultural areas. Quality control and quality assessment protocols were followed with review of hourly data and necessary adjustments performed on AWS data and daily checks and necessary adjustments performed on NOAA data. In conclusion, the time period was of such duration that at some point each parameter needed some adjustment. Minor adjustments to short periods of the wind data were necessary at all three sites. Air temperature data were mostly acceptable with the exception of multiple errors in the minimum temperature values for individual points within each site. Regarding both solar radiation and relative humidity for each site, erroneous trends were noticed and corrected, though the adjustment factors generally remained minimal (under 5%).

The average water year ET<sub>o</sub> for 1989 – 2015 was 55.34 inches. The 26-year average precipitation from 1989 to 2015, was 10.11 inches.

## <span id="page-717-2"></span>**5 REFERENCES**

Allen, R.G. 1996. *"Assessing integrity of weather data for use in reference evapotranspiration estimation." J. Irrig. And Drain. Engrg.*, ASCE. 122(2):97-106.

Allen, R.G., L.S. Pereira, D. Raes and M Smith. 1998. *"Crop Evapotranspiration: Guidelines for computing crop water requirements."* Irrig. And Drain. Paper 56, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, 300 pp.

Allen, R.G., Walter. I. A., Elliot, R., Howell, T., Itenfisu, D., Jensen, M. 2005. *"The ASCE Standardized Reference Evapotranspiration Equation."* Publication, American Society of Civil Engineers.

### <span id="page-718-0"></span>**Attachment 2A.F.h-A. List of Quality Control Adjustments Completed**

#### **Madera II Weather Station data:**

#### **Air Temperature:**

2013: bad minimum temperature for 4-2, 10-7, 11-12,

2014: bad minimum temperature on 3-10, 4-7, 11-10, 11-12,

2015: bad minimum temperature on 3-9, 12-8,

2016: bad minimum temperature on 2-26, 5-27, 10-18,

#### **Solar Radiation:**

2013: data values need replacement on 4-2, 7-2, 7-5, 8-12, 9-4, 9-11, 9-17,

2014: 1% increase until 6-29, 4% increase the rest of the year, data values need replacement on 3-10, 4- 3, 4-7, 6-4, 6-6, 8-12, 9-4, 9-8, 10-22, 11-10, 11-14

2015: 2% increase all year, data values need replacement on 2-9, 3-9, 7-8, 8-17, 9-16, 11-13

#### **Relative Humidity:**

2013: increase data up 3% all year (from 4-2 when station starts through the end of year)

2014: apply 3% increase for first half of year

2015: good

#### **Windspeed\*:**

2013-2015: Good

#### **Fresno State Weather Station data:**

#### **Air Temperature:**

1989: missing average air temperature for 1-1 and 1-2, 10-13, missing all data for 10-12

1990: missing/bad data for 3-26 and 3-27, missing all data from 8-20 through 9-1

1991: bad data point on 3-8, missing data on 10-18 through 10-21 and 12-23

1992: missing data from 7-10 through 7-13 and from 10-17 through 11-10, data points need replacement on 5-15, 7-8, 7-13, 7-28, 7-29, 7-31, 9-4, 11-6, and 12-1

1993: bad minimum temperature readings on 2-1, 3-23, 4-21, 5-21, 6-25, 7-2, 9-10, and 10-29

1994: bad minimum temperature readings on 5-20, 7-18, 9-9, missing average temperature on 1-3

1995: all good

1996: bad minimum temperature on 4-30, 11-8, 12-31

1997: bad minimum temperature on 7-29, 4-1, 4-18, 10-2, and 10-10

1998: bad minimum temperature on 7-17, 8-17, bad average temp on 9-4

1999: bad minimum temperature on 4-10, 10-15, missing minimum temperature on 6-11, 7-23, 9-22, bad average temperature on 2-25, 3-1

2000: bad minimum temperature values on 4-12, 5-2, 5-16, 10-20,

2001: bad minimum temperature values on 4-10, 5-31, and 10-12

2002: bad minimum temperature values on 2-25, 4-30, 5-28,

2003: bad minimum temperature values on 3-11,

#### **Solar Radiation:**

1989: Good

1990: Good

1991: Adjust data down 9% from 5-30 through 6-7

1992: data points need replacement on 5-15, 7-13, 7-29, 7-31, 9-4, 12-1; adjust all data for this year up 2.5%

1993: data points need replacement on 2-1, 5-21, 6-25, 7-2, 9-10, 10-29

1994: data points need replacement on 7-18

1995: adjust data down 1%

1996: Adjust data up 8% from 5-15 on

1997: Adjust data up 8% until 4-1, then no adjustment; data points need replacement on 4-1, 4-18, 7-29

1998: data points need replacement on 5-1, 7-17, 11-25, adjust data down 2% from 5-9 through 7-1

1999: data points need replacement for 4-23, 6-11, 7-23, moved data up 5% from beginning until 8-10, move data up 7% from 8-10 until 9-2, then move data up 12% for the rest of the year

#### **Relative Humidity:**

1989: good

1990: move data up 1% for the whole year

1991: move data up 4% from 9-21 through end of the year

1992: move data up 1% all year

1993: Good

1994: Good

1995: Good

1996: Good

1997: Good

1998: Good

1999: Good

#### **Windspeed\*:**

1989-1999: Good
#### **Madera Weather Station Data:**

#### **Air temperature:**

- 1998: Bad minimum temperature on 10-1,
- 1999: bad minimum temperature on 4-23,
- 2000: bad minimum temperature on 3-7, 10-2,
- 2001: bad minimum temperature on 10-11,
- 2002: bad minimum temperature on 4-15, 4-22, 2-27,
- 2003: bad minimum temperature on 3-2, 4-8, 5-12, 10-29,
- 2004: bad minimum temperature on 4-21, 12-5, 12-9,
- 2005: bad minimum temperature on 1-6, 1-12, 1-31, 4-20,
- 2006: bad minimum temperature on 2-6,
- 2007: bad average temperature on 1-1,
- 2008: bad minimum temperature on 4-14,
- 2009: bad minimum temperature on 1-16, 3-13,
- 2010: bad minimum temperature on 1-27,

2011: bad minimum temperatures on 1-22 through 2-1, 2-16, 3-17, 4-14, bad average temperature on 11- 29,

- 2012: bad minimum temperature on 5-9, 2-6, 2-28, 1-23,
- 2013: good through 4-2 (end of record)

#### **Solar Radiation:**

1998: Data points need replacement on 8-26, 12-23, 12-31,

1999: Data points need replacement on 4-2, 4-23, 6-11, 7-2, 9-7, move all data up 3.5%,

2000: move data down 1% until 6-6, and then move data up 1% through the rest of the year

2001: data points need replacement on 7-20, 8-13, 8-15, 9-10, move data up 3% until 5-10, then move data up 4% until 7-11, then unadjusted data through the end of the year

2002: move all data down 1.5%, data points need replacement on 8-21, 8-24, 8-25,

2003: From 7-15 on, move data up 3.5%, data points need replacement on 3-10, 4-8, 5-12, 7-10, 8-14,

2004: data points need replacement on 6-18, 7-19, 8-18, move all data up 2.5%,

2005: data points need replacement on 2-22, 3-15, move all data up 4%

2006: move data up 10% until 6-19, and then move data up 14% through the end of the year

2007: data points need replacement on 8-16, move data down 3% until 5-2, and then move data down 8% until 8-14, then move data up 3% for the rest of the year,

2008: move data up 13% until 4-13, then move data down 12% through the end of the year,

2009: move data down 6% until 6-7, then move data down 2% for the rest of the year, data points need replacement on 6-16, 6-19, 8-7, 8-10,

2010: move data up 2% for the year, data points need replacement on 1-27, 11-24,

2011: move data up 3.5% until 5-25, then move data down 6% until end of year, data points need replacement on 7-18, 9-7, 11-2,

2012: replace data from 4-29 through 5-7, and on 3-19, 5-9, 6-5, 6-6, move data up 5% from 5-14 through the end of the year,

2013: data points need replacement from 3-29 through 4-2

#### **Relative Humidity:**

1998: good

1999: apply 2% increase to the second half of the year

2000: apply 2% increase to first half of year, and 3% increase to second half of year

2001: apply 3% increase to first half of year, and 4% increase to second half of year

2002: apply 4% increase all year

2003: apply 4% increase to first half of year, and 6.5% increase to second half of year

2004: apply 7% increase to first half of year, and 8.5% increase to second half of year

2005: apply 9.5% increase to first half of year, and 12% increase to second half of year

2006: apply % increase until 6-9, then no adjustment factor

2007: good

2008: good

2009: apply 2% increase all year

2010: apply 2% increase all year

2011: apply 2% increase all year

2012: apply 1% increase all year

2013: Good

#### **Windspeed\*:**

1998-2013: Good

\*Windspeed values that fell below the threshold may have been replaced with replacement stations data but are not listed here because they were not replaced in the manual review QC process.

## **Attachment 2A.F.h-B. Annual ETo and Precipitation Results**



#### Table 2A.F.h-B-1. Water Year ET<sub>o</sub> and Precipitation **Results**

## **APPENDIX 2.F. WATER BUDGET INFORMATION**

## **2.F.i. Development of Daily Time Step IDC Root Zone Water Budget Model**

Prepared as part of the **Joint Groundwater Sustainability Plan Madera Subbasin**

January 2020

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## <span id="page-725-0"></span>**1 OVERVIEW**

The Madera Subbasin water budget uses available data and estimates to develop an accurate accounting of all water inflows and outflows from the Madera Subbasin. As part of water budget development, flows through the root zone and land surface were modeled using the root zone water budget modeling tool known as the Integrated Water Flow Model (IWFM) Demand Calculator, or IDC. IDC uses weather data and information regarding crops, soil properties, and irrigation methods to compute the balance of inflows and outflows from the Land Surface System.

IDC can be used as a stand-alone tool, or it can be integrated for use with IWFM. Both tools are developed and maintained by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). For developing the Madera Subbasin Surface Water System (SWS) water budgets, a daily IDC application was used as a stand-alone root zone model independent of IWFM. For developing the integrated SWS and Groundwater System (GWS) water budgets, this daily IDC application was converted to a monthly application, recalibrated to match the monthly inflows and outflows in the SWS water budgets, and then integrated with the California Central Valley Groundwater-Surface Water Simulation Model (C2VSim) application modified for modeling the Madera Subbasin SWS and GWS, known as MCSim. The IDC application thus served as the foundation for coupling the SWS water budget to the groundwater model used in GSP development.

For the Madera Subbasin water budget, IDC was used to develop time series estimates for the following outputs which were then combined with surface water delivery and groundwater pumping information to complete the subbasin boundary water budget: and to provide estimates of the infiltration of precipitation and runoff of precipitation:

- ET of precipitation  $(ET_{pr})$
- ET of applied water  $(ET_{aw})$
- Infiltration of precipitation, also called deep percolation of precipitation ( $DP_{pr}$ )
- Infiltration of applied water, also called deep percolation of applied water ( $DP_{aw}$ )
- Uncollected surface runoff of precipitation  $(RO<sub>or</sub>)$
- Uncollected surface runoff of applied water ( $RO_{aw}$ ; estimated as negligible in the Madera Subbasin)
- Change in root zone storage

IDC files were developed for a stand-alone, daily time step IDC application and these inputs were later adapted into IDC files used to simulate root zone soil moisture within IWFM. Thus, the IWFM results for the surface layer of the Madera Subbasin area should be carefully reviewed and IDC Model parameters may require some adjustment to align the results with the agricultural lands water budget results.

Inputs provided to the IDC root zone model include:

- Daily crop evapotranspiration  $(ET<sub>c</sub>)$  representing actual ET (as compared to potential ET) for each crop or land use class from January 1, 1985 through December 31, 2015 developed by multiplying reference ET (ET<sub>o</sub>) by the appropriate crop coefficient (developed from a 2009 SEBAL (remotely sensed energy balance analysis)).
- Daily precipitation (P<sub>r</sub>) from January 1, 1985 through December 31, 2015.
- Soil properties for each soil texture simulated
- Rooting depth for each crop or land use class
- Other model parameters for the land use classes and soil texture combinations simulated, including soil moisture parameters and runoff curve numbers

# <span id="page-726-0"></span>**2 IDC MODEL SETUP**

The IDC Model was used as a stand-alone root zone modeling tool to develop a surface layer water budget for the Madera Subbasin to provide preliminary information regarding subbasin water overdraft prior to the development of the groundwater model. The IDC Model was then linked with IWFM to develop a groundwater model for the Chowchilla and Madera Subbasins.

The stand-alone IDC Model uses a daily time step to accurately parse  $ET_c$  into  $ET_{aw}$  and  $ET_{pr}$  for the Madera Subbasin agricultural water budget between January 1, 1985 and December 31, 2015. The model is set up as a unitized model (as compared to a spatial model) that provides per acre results by specifying one unique land use class-soil-runoff combination per element with the area of each element set to 10,000 acres. A total of 17 land use classes and 16 soil textures were evaluated with one specified curve number representing runoff conditions for each. To allow land use class-soil-runoff combinations to be added in future years, 50 elements comprised of 114 nodes were configured in the model. The land use class-soilrunoff combinations are described in the following sections. The provided input files were used with the IWFM Version 2015.0.0036, Root Zone Component Version 4.0 (DWR, 2015). All land use classes were modeled as non-ponded crops except the urban land use class, which was modeled using the IDC urban module.

The linked IDC Model uses a monthly time step to link with the IWFM groundwater model. The monthly linked model results should match daily model results summed to monthly and annual time steps. Because of the differing time steps, some of the IDC parameters in the daily model must be revised. Those revisions are described in the appropriate sections below.

## <span id="page-726-1"></span>**2.1 Weather Inputs**

## <span id="page-726-2"></span>2.1.1 Evapotranspiration Inputs

Daily reference ET (ET<sub>o</sub>) values used for 1985 through 2015 were based on measured weather data from three California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS) stations (Table 2A.F.i-1). Measured weather parameters supporting daily ET<sub>o</sub> calculations were quality controlled following standard procedures (ASCE-EWRI, 2005) to produce a high quality daily ET<sub>o</sub> time series for use with crop coefficients to develop the ET time series for each land use class as described in Appendix 2.F.h.

<b>Weather Station</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Fresno State (#80)	Jan. 1, 1985	Mav 12. 1998	CIMIS. Before Madera was installed.
Madera (#145)	May 13, 1998	Apr. 2, 2013	CIMIS. Moved East 2 miles and renamed "Madera II"
Madera II (#188)	Apr. 3, 2013	Dec. 31, 2015	CIMIS.

*Table 1. Madera Subbasin Weather Data Time Series Summary for the period 1989 – 2015.*

Crop coefficients were derived using  $ET_0$  values described in the previous paragraph and actual ET (ET<sub>a</sub>) estimates based on remotely sensed surface energy balance results from Surface Energy Balance Algorithm for Land (SEBAL) (Bastiaanssen, et al. 2005). Spatially distributed ET<sub>a</sub> results were available with spatial cropping data for 2009. SEBAL results account for effects of salinity, deficit irrigation, disease, fertilization, immature permanent crops, crop canopy structure, and any other factors resulting in differences between potential and actual crop ET. Studies by Bastiaanssen et al. (2005), Allen et al. (2007, 2011), Thoreson et al. (2009), and others have found that when performed by an expert analyst, seasonal

 $ET<sub>a</sub>$  estimates by these models are expected to be within five percent of actual ET determined using other, reliable methods. For crops grown in the Madera Subbasin, annual  $ET_a$  computed using the quality controlled CIMIS ET<sub>o</sub> and crop coefficients are provided in Table 2A.F.i-2.





#### <span id="page-727-0"></span>2.1.2 Precipitation Inputs

Precipitation values were obtained from the three CIMIS stations (Table 2A.F.i-1) for 1985 through 2015 and averaged 10.1 inches per water year during the 1989 through 2015 period. The precipitation records were carefully reviewed and standard quality control procedures (ASCE-EWRI, 2005) were applied as described in Appendix 2.F.h.

#### <span id="page-728-0"></span>**2.2 Land Use Inputs and Parameters**

#### <span id="page-728-1"></span>2.2.1 Land Use

Annual land use was estimated based primarily on spatially distributed land use information from DWR Land Use surveys in [1](#page-728-2)995, 2001 and 2011 and Land  $IQ<sup>1</sup>$  remote sensing-based land use identification for 2014. County Agriculture Commission land use areas were used to interpolate between years with available spatial land use information. Lands in the District were assigned to one of 17 land use classes. These land use classes along with average acres over the 1989 through 2015 period are listed in Table 2A.F.i-2.

The Madera Subbasin underlies land within Madera County. The following five steps were used to develop the Madera County-wide annual, spatial land use dataset.

- 1.) Developed spatial land use coverages for 1995, 2001, 2011, and 2014. Made adjustments to the spatial coverage, including:
	- a) Filled missing area from LandIQ coverage with 2011 DWR coverage (native, semi-agricultural, urban, and water account for 86% of the missing area)
	- b) Used the water area from 2001 for the 1995 DWR survey (water surfaces were not included in the 1995 DWR survey).
- 2.) Calculated agricultural area:
	- a) Assumed county data does not include idle land (county data has idle equal to zero for all years)
	- b) Excluded idle land from DWR agricultural totals to be consistent with county totals
	- c) Calculated the ratio of the DWR agricultural total area (not including idle lands) to county agricultural production area for years with DWR (or Land IQ) land use data
	- d) Estimated agricultural area for missing years between the first and last available county data by interpolating the ratio calculated in step (c)
	- e) Estimated agricultural area for missing years outside the available county data by extending the annual trend or estimating as equal to the nearest available county data
- 3.) Multiplied county agricultural acres for each crop by the ratio calculated in in step 2 (c) to adjust county agricultural areas for each crop scaling each crop area in each year by an estimate of the difference between the areas in the DWR land use surveys and County Commissioner reports. This procedure assumes DWR areas are the most accurate.
	- a) Interpolated native, semi-agricultural, urban, and water land uses between DWR years.
	- b) Calculated idle area as the remaining area (total DWR land use minus total cropped area)
- 4.) Reviewed calculated idle and crop area graphs and adjusted individual annual cropped areas with abnormal crop area shifts based on professional judgement to eliminate calculated negative idle areas
	- a) 1996 adjustments--replaced high miscellaneoustruck areas with interpolated values between 1995 and 1997
	- b) 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 adjustments--replaced high areas for mixed pasture and alfalfa between 2001 and 2011 DWR areas by interpolating areas between 2001 and 2011.
	- c) 2012 adjustments--replaced high miscellaneous deciduous, field and truck with interpolated value between 2011 and 2013
- 5.) Implemented the DWR Land Use interpolation tool to create annual spatial cropping data sets.

<span id="page-728-2"></span> $1$  Land IQ is a firm that was contracted by DWR to use remote sensing methodologies to identify crops in fields.

Complete land use areas for the entire subbasin for 1989 through 2015 are provided in Section 2 of the GSP.

#### <span id="page-729-0"></span>2.2.2 Root Depth

The IDC model was set up to simulate the aforementioned land use classes. Root depths for each land use class were estimated primarily from ASCE (2016) with consideration given for local conditions. A list of the land use classes and their associated rooting depths are provided in Table 2A.F.i-3. IDC provides an option that models changing root growth as the season progresses for annual crops. For this application, all land use classes were modeled with constant root depths.

<b>Land Use Class</b>	Root Depth, ft
Alfalfa	6.0
Almonds	4.0
<b>Citrus and Subtropical</b>	4.0
Corn (double crop)	3.5
Grain and Hay Crops	3.5
Grapes	4.0
Idle	3.0
Miscellaneous Deciduous	4.0
Miscellaneous Field Crops	3.5
Miscellaneous Truck Crops	2.5
<b>Mixed Pasture</b>	3.0
Native	6.0
Pistachios	4.0
Semi-agricultural	4.0
Urban	4.0
Walnuts	6.0
Water	4.0

*Table 2A.F.i-3. Root Depths Used in IDC Model by Land Use Class.*

#### <span id="page-729-1"></span>2.2.3 Runoff Curve Numbers

The IDC uses a modified version of the SCS curve number (SCS-CN) method to compute runoff of precipitation. A curve number for each land use class and soil type is required as input to the model. Curve numbers are used as described in the National Engineering Handbook Part 630<sup>[2](#page-729-2)</sup> (USDA, 2004, 2007) based on land use or cover type, treatments (straight rows, bare soil, etc.), hydrologic condition, and hydrologic soil group. An area weighted average curve number for each land use-soil texture combination was calculated based on the area in each hydrologic soil group assuming good hydrologic conditions (Table 2A.F.i-4). The total area of each soil group within the Madera Subbasin was estimated from the NRCS SSURGO database and is described in a later section.

<span id="page-729-2"></span> $2$  Table 1. Runoff curve numbers for agricultural lands.

(% Sand,% Silt, Soil Texture % Clay)	<b>Alfalfa</b>	Almonds	Subtropical Citrus and	Corn	Grain and Hay Crops	Grapes	Idle	Miscellaneous <b>Deciduous</b>	Miscellaneous <b>Field Crops</b>	Miscellaneous <b>Truck Crops</b>	<b>Mixed Pasture</b>	<b>Native</b>	Pistachios	agricultural Semi-	Walnuts	<b>Water</b>	Urban
clay - clay loam (30, 30, 40)	78	79	79	89	87	79	94	79	89	89	78	78	79	86	79	89	69
clay (20, 30, 50)	78	79	79	89	87	79	94	79	89	89	78	78	79	86	79	89	
clay (30, 20, 50)	78	79	79	89	87	79	94	79	89	89	78	78	79	86	79	89	
clay loam (30, 40, 30)	74	75	75	87	84	75	92	75	87	87	74	74	75	83	75	87	
clay loam (40, 30, 30)	$\overline{77}$	78	78	$\overline{88}$	86	78	94	78	$\overline{88}$	$\overline{88}$	$\overline{77}$	$\overline{77}$	$\overline{78}$	85	78	88	
loam (40, 40, 20)	69	70	70	84	82	70	90	70	84	84	69	69	70	81	70	84	
loam (50, 30, 20)	73	74	74	86	84	74	92	74	86	86	73	73	74	83	74	86	
loamy sand $(80, 20, 0)$	31	33	33	67	63	33	77	33	67	67	31	31	33	59	33	67	
sand (100, 0, 0)	60	61	61	80	77	61	87	61	$\overline{80}$	80	60	60	61	76	61	80	
sandy clay loam (50, 20, 30)	78	79	79	89	87	79	94	79	89	89	78	78	79	86	79	89	
sandy clay loam (60, 10, 30)	78	79	79	89	87	79	94	79	89	89	78	78	79	86	79	89	
sandy loam - sandy clay loam (60, 20, 20)	64	65	65	81	79	65	89	65	$\overline{81}$	81	64	64	65	78	65	81	
sandy loam - sandy clay loam (70, 10, 20)	77	78	78	88	86	78	93	78	88	88	77	77	78	85	78	88	
sandy loam (70, 20, 10)	61	61	61	80	77	61	87	61	80	80	61	61	61	76	61	80	
sandy loam (80, 10, 10)	41	42	42	71	68	42	80	42	71	71	41	41	42	65	42	71	
silty clay loam (20, 50, 30)	58	58	58	78	75	58	86	58	78	78	58	58	58	74	58	78	

*Table 2A.F.i-4. Curve Number Used to Represent Runoff Conditions in Madera Subbasin.* 

<span id="page-731-0"></span>When IDC is run on a monthly time step, if the curve number used for the daily model is used, greater volumes of runoff of precipitation result. Thus, the curve number values were adjusted to result in runoff of precipitation volumes consistent with the daily model results.

### 2.2.4 Irrigation Period

The irrigation period determines the cropped and non-cropped periods for each crop. A value of one represents a cropped period, during which IDC calculates applied water demand for the crop. A value of zero represents a non-cropped period, during which IDC does not compute applied water for the crop. Different irrigation periods can be defined for different land use types if necessary. In this application the irrigation period was set to one between March and October for all land use classes except idle lands, and roughly corresponded with the irrigation season in the Madera Subbasin. For idle lands, the irrigation period was set to zero for all months.

## <span id="page-731-1"></span>2.2.5 Minimum Soil Moisture

The minimum soil moisture value for each crop corresponds to the moisture content at the Management Allowable Depletion (MAD) specified for that crop. Management Allowed Depletion (MAD) is defined as the desired soil water deficit at the time of irrigation and can vary with growth stage (ASABE, 2007). The MAD is often set as the percent of total available moisture that the crop can withdraw without suffering stress or yield loss. Water stress is estimated within the IDC model when the percent of total available moisture exceeds 50 percent. The IDC Model allows different values to be input for different crops and different growth stages. Values for the minimum soil moisture were set to 50 percent for all land use classes at all growth stages to prevent stress from occurring in the simulation. It is important to note here that the crop coefficients, as described previously, are developed from remotely sensed energy balance ET data and thus already include ET reductions that may have occurred due to water stress or other factors.

## <span id="page-731-2"></span>2.2.6 Agricultural Water Supply Requirement (Target Soil Moisture Fraction)

Water supplied to each crop is estimated within the simulation. The target soil moisture data file allows the user to specify irrigation target soil moisture as a fraction of field capacity. When simulating an irrigation event, the IDC model will apply water until the soil reaches the specified percent of field capacity. Target soil moisture fractions were estimated as 1.0 for all land use classes based on common irrigation methods and scheduling practices in the Madera Subbasin, where growers typically irrigate to field capacity.

When IDC is run on a monthly time step, if the TSMF used for the daily model is used, greater volumes of deep percolation results. This is because when the IDC equations are applied on a monthly basis, the TSMF values used for the daily model result in greater values of soil moisture in the equation computing deep percolation. Thus, the TSMF values was adjusted to result in deep percolation of applied water volumes consistent with the daily model results. The revised TSMF values were also adjusted to simulate the increase in consumptive use fraction that occurs when over time flood irrigation systems are converted to pressurized systems.

### <span id="page-731-3"></span>2.2.7 Reuse and Return Flow

The return flow fraction determines the proportion of applied water that can leave the land use cell as runoff, while the reuse fraction determines the proportion of applied water that is captured and reused for irrigation. A value of one each indicates that all applied water can leave as runoff, but that all applied water is captured and reused for irrigation. A value of zero each indicates that no applied water leaves the land use cell or is reused for irrigation. For this simulation, irrigation water return flow and reuse fractions have been set to zero in the IDC model. Return flow and reuse are internal flow paths and thus not included in the Subbasin boundary water budget.

### <span id="page-732-0"></span>2.2.8 Minimum Deep Percolation Fraction

The minimum deep percolation fraction, defined as a fraction of "infiltrated" applied water, is used to simulate the practice of applying additional water to leach salts from the root zone. Because of the highquality water and soil in the study area, applying additional water to leach salts is not a common practice, so the minimum deep percolation factor was set equal to zero for all crops.

#### <span id="page-732-1"></span>2.2.9 Initial Soil Moisture

In many years, sufficient precipitation occurs during the winter months to fill the root zone to field capacity. Thus, the initial soil moisture at the IDC model start date (January 1, 1985) was set to field capacity. The IDC model runs for the Subbasin water budget were started, four years before the first year in the water budget period (1989) to minimize any potential effect from incorrectly specifying the initial soil moisture value.

### <span id="page-732-2"></span>**2.3 Soil Inputs**

#### <span id="page-732-3"></span>2.3.1 Soil Textural Classes and Calibrated Model Parameters

Soil textural classes and associated soil hydraulic parameters were estimated from the Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) database (Soil Survey Staff, 2014) for use in IDC. The SSURGO database contains information collected by the National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS) about soils in the United States. The United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS), formerly known as the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), organizes the NCSS and publishes soil surveys. The IDC model includes sixteen soil textures representing approximately 98 percent of the Madera Subbasin area (Table 2A.F.i-5). Sandy clay loam and sandy loam textured soils together underlie nearly 77 percent of the area inside the Madera Subbasin.

The following five soil parameters are inputs to the IDC Model:

- 1. Permanent Wilting Point (PWP), dimensionless
- 2. Field Capacity (FC), dimensionless
- 3. Total Porosity (φ), dimensionless
- 4. Pore Size Distribution Index (λ) , dimensionless
- 5. Saturated Hydraulic Conductivity  $(K_{sat})$  in feet per day (ft/day)



#### *Table 2A.F.i-5. Soil Textures by Area.*

For each soil texture class derived from SSURGO, initial soil hydraulic properties were estimated based on pedotransfer functions reported by Saxton and Rawls (2006) and refined to provide drainage from saturation to field capacity within a reasonable amount of time, as determined from the percentage of drainage after 3 days (general exceeding 60-80%), and to predict minimal gravitational drainage once field capacity was reached (Table 2A.F.i-6).





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## **APPENDIX 2.G. MADERA SUBBASIN DOMESTIC WELL INVENTORY**

Prepared as part of the **Joint Groundwater Sustainability Plan Madera Subbasin**

> January 2020 Revised March 2023

> > **GSP Team:**

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# **Technical Memorandum:**

# Domestic Well Inventory for the Madera Subbasin

*Prepared for Madera County and the Madera Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies*

April 2022











# **Technical Memorandum:**

# Domestic Well Inventory for the Madera Subbasin

This memorandum was prepared for Madera County and the Madera Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies to support implementation of the Madera Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan.



Luhdorff and Scalmanini Consulting Engineers conducted the Domestic Well Inventory project for the Madera Subbasin and prepared this technical memorandum with assistance from ERA Economics.



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#### **LIST OF TABLES**



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- Figure 1a Well Completion Report new construction domestic wells located by best available method. Figure 1b Well Completion Report new construction domestic well counts by Section.
- Figure 2a Permit locations and geolocation method in Madera Subbasin.



#### **ATTACHMENTS**

- 1. Domestic Well Replacement Economic Analysis Madera Subbasin Update
- 2. Madera Subbasin Evaluation of DWR Household Water Supply Shortage Reports and Self-Help Enterprises Tank Water Participants

#### **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS**



#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

The Madera Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) includes maps, figures, analysis, and discussion of domestic wells and potential impacts from continued decline in regional groundwater levels during the GSP Implementation Period. The GSP provided the background and data analyses to illustrate the need for a Domestic Well Mitigation Program in Madera Subbasin and described how it is the most economically viable way to transition from current overdraft conditions to sustainable conditions in 2040. However, there was insufficient time during GSP development to conduct the more thorough inventory of domestic wells and the potential range of impacts to domestic wells under various scenarios of future groundwater conditions. This study supplements domestic well information provided in the GSP and provides an updated analysis that includes anticipated impacts to domestic wells during the GSP Implementation Period.

Madera County was successful in applying for a DWR grant under Prop 68 to conduct a more detailed well inventory, which is documented in this Technical Memorandum (TM). In addition, the grant funding provides for drilling and installation of nested monitoring wells at two sites in proximity to clusters of domestic wells to provide monitoring of current and future groundwater levels and groundwater quality. This TM includes recommendations for locations of these two nested well sites.

To prepare this domestic well inventory, approximations of the number, depths, and locations of domestic wells were developed from multiple available data sources. The total number of domestic wells indicated to be present according to the various data sources were reviewed and compared. Domestic well depths were then compared to historical, current, and predicted future local groundwater depths based on observed and modeled data from the groundwater model (MCSIM) developed for and described in the 2020 Madera Subbasin GSP. Due to the uncertainty in future climatic conditions for the GSP Implementation Period; two primary scenarios were evaluated to bracket the range of domestic wells that are estimated to go dry during the GSP Implementation Period. Estimated costs to replace domestic wells are also included in this TM.

This TM documents the available data sources for estimating numbers and locations of domestic wells, domestic well construction details, occurrence of domestic wells inside and outside of public and small community water systems, analyses to estimate the number of domestic wells that may go dry through 2040 based on two different climatic sequences, and sensitivity analyses to evaluate how various assumptions impact estimates of the number of dry wells. Using the results from the domestic well inventory and analysis, an updated economic analysis was also conducted comparing the tradeoffs of implementing a Domestic Well Mitigation Program during the Implementation Period versus immediately implementing demand reduction in the Subbasin to avoid significant and unreasonable adverse impacts on domestic well users. This economic analysis is included as **Attachment 1** (Domestic Well Replacement Economic Analysis) and provides an update to Appendix 3.D of the Madera Subbasin GSP. **Attachment 1** incorporates the latest results from the domestic well inventory relative to the total number of domestic wells estimated to go dry during the GSP Implementation Period. The economic analysis evaluated the difference in costs for implementing a Domestic Well Mitigation Program

concurrent with gradual reductions in groundwater pumping over the twenty‐year Implementation Period compared to not having a Domestic Well Mitigation Program and immediately implementing demand management and other PMAs to eliminate the overdraft in the Subbasin.

#### **2 DOMESTIC WELL INVENTORY DATA SOURCES AND COMPILATION**

Data from a variety of public agencies were assembled for consideration in the project. Compiled datasets included the following.

- Well Completion Report (WCR) Database from California Department of Water Resources (CDWR) Online System for WCRs (OSWCR)
- Madera County well permit database (records since 1990)
- Madera County Assessor's Parcel data
- Public Water System (PWS) service area boundaries and PWS well locations from State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Division of Drinking Water (DDW)
- State Small Water System (SSWS) service area boundaries from Madera County
- Census block-level household counts from the US Census Bureau
- Disadvantaged Community boundaries from DWR

With the exception of the Madera County well permit database, all of the above‐listed datasets were available in geospatial (e.g., GIS) formats. The well permit database was provided as tabular data, which was converted to geospatial information as described below.

#### **2.1 DWR WCR Database**

The primary source for well construction data in the subbasin is the CDWR WCR database (CDWR, 2020). Well drillers are required to submit a WCR to DWR for all wells drilled and constructed in the State of California. DWR has tabulated information from WCRs for the State, including data from WCRs dating as far back as the early 1900s. The tabulated WCR information include well type and construction characteristics such as the intended use of the well, well depths, and screened intervals along with location, construction date, permit information, and other details included on the WCR. Although completed WCRs commonly include additional notes on borehole lithology and a variety of other types of information, lithology and some other well information included on WCRs is not entered or maintained in the DWR WCR database. It is notable that many well attributes in the WCR database are blank or incomplete because of missing or illegible information provided on the WCRs. Additionally, well locations in the WCR database are commonly only provided to the center of the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) section in which it is located, which translates to a locational accuracy of approximately +/‐ 0.5 mile.

#### 2.1.1 Domestic Well WCRs

As part of the project, initial quality checks were conducted on the WCR database to identify obvious inconsistencies in well data, including conflicting well locations (e.g., latitude, longitude, PLSS coordinates) and construction (e.g., well depths, top and bottom of screens). Such questionable information and records were flagged for additional consideration during subsequent analyses. For the purpose of this

domestic well inventory project, only WCRs indicated to be domestic water supply wells were included in the analysis. To limit potential double counting of domestic wells, only WCRs for new well construction (i.e., not well repairs/modification or destruction) were included in the domestic well inventory.

The number of well records within the Madera Subbasin in the WCR database exhibit a notable increase starting in about 1970 as indicated by domestic WCR counts by decade presented in **Table 1**. This shift may be partly due to changes in the Water Code relating to well data collection methods and reporting requirements that were instituted in 1969. The number of WCRs for domestic wells in the Madera Subbasin increased by a factor of six times around 1970, from around 100 WCRs in the 1960s to over 600 in the 1970s.

#### 2.1.2 WCR Dates

The typical lifespan of a small water well is estimated to be 30 to 50 years based on the durability and longevity of typical domestic well materials, which are commonly constructed of PVC casing. Wells drilled prior to 1970 are also unlikely to still be in operation because of long‐term trends in groundwater levels in the Subbasin.

For these reasons, only WCRs for wells with dates on or after 1970, were included in the domestic well inventory and associated analyses. DWR's WCR database includes 265 domestic well new construction WCRs located in the Madera Subbasin that do not have any recorded installation or permit dates. For this well inventory and analysis, these 265 wells were included in the analysis even though some fraction of them may have been constructed prior to 1970. A total of 4,822 domestic wells constructed since 1970 were considered in the project based on WCR records.

#### 2.1.3 WCR Locations

Wells with WCRs marked as domestic were selected and mapped based on one of four geolocation methods, depending on what information was available in the tabulated data. Only wells with installations in 1970 or later were considered, or those with no available date of installation. The geolocation methods, in order of priority, are as follows:

- 1. Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) 4 wells
- 2. Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 2387 wells
- 3. Address 1397 wells
- 4. Public Land Survey System (PLSS) 1034 wells

A total of 4,822 domestic wells were located within the Madera Subbasin using these methods (**Figure 1a**). Wells located by PLSS are typically placed at the center of the section in which they are located, and thus may be out of position by as much as about 0.5 mile (half the typical width of a section). Other sources of location error include changes in APNs over time; poorly matched addresses; and incorrect WCR entries for PLSS values, GPS coordinates, APNs, or addresses. Since many of the location dots for domestic wells plot on top of each other in **Figure 1a**, the locations of domestic wells in the Subbasin by Township/Range/Section mapping are displayed in **Figure 1b**.

#### **2.2 Well Permit Records**

Under county regulation, a well permit is required prior to drilling and constructing a domestic well. Records of well permits were provided by Madera County as a tabular dataset (Madera County Environmental Health, 2020); no GIS data were initially available for the well permits. The period of record for the well permits begins in 1990. Limited information on individual wells is available in the well permit dataset, although most well permits include APNs or well addresses, which can be used for locating wells. Well uses in the permit dataset were inconsistently entered and required considerable review and modification to standardize well uses for identifying likely domestic well permits.

#### 2.2.1 Domestic Well Permits

A subset of 7,505 permits for all of Madera County was identified as likely domestic wells based on the indicated well use. The well uses retained as representative of likely domestic wells include the following:

- 1. Domestic (7300 permits),
- 2. Domestic Replacement (25 permits),
- 3. Shared (54 permits),
- 4. Dairy (36 permits),
- 5. No Use listed (90 permits).

"Shared" wells are typically domestic wells that are also used for irrigation. "Dairy" wells are typically used for semi‐industrial, and irrigation uses on a dairy, but in some cases can also be used for domestic water supply. Wells without a listed use were included in an effort to be conservative in the domestic well inventory.

### 2.2.2 Locating Well Permits

Of the 7,505 domestic well permits (7,362 with APNs) for all of Madera County, the portion applicable to Madera Subbasin were identified based on APNs associated with them. Multiple permits refer to the same APN in some cases with only 6,498 unique APNs listed as having domestic well permits in the database. Domestic well permits in the County well permit database were located by matching the listed APN with the county parcel data when possible. Following this approach, 4,115 domestic well permits were matched to 3,605 unique parcels located within the Madera Subbasin. For the 143 well permits without APNs, 79 permits were expected to be located within the Subbasin based on the fraction of permits with APNs that were determined to be within the Subbasin.

In addition to APNs, the well permit database includes site addresses for most (7,323) of the wells. Through geocoding of addresses in the well permit database, 95 of the well permits without APNs were located within the Subbasin.

Though locating of well permits based on APNs and site addresses, approximate locations for all but one of the 7,505 domestic well permits were determined. Using these locations, the total number of domestic well permits in the Subbasin was determined to be 4,210 (at 3,700 unique locations) out of 7,505 domestic well permits in the database. A map of the domestic well permits located in the Madera Subbasin is presented in **Figure 2a**. Since many of the location dots for domestic wells plot on top of each other in **Figure 2a**, the count of domestic wells in the Subbasin by Township/Range/Section mapping is displayed in **Figure 2b**. The relationship between County well permits and WCRs is summarized in **Table 2** and described further in Section 3.2.3.3 Scaling Estimates.

#### **2.3 County Assessor Parcel Data**

County Assessor parcel GIS data were provided by Madera County (Madera County Assessor's Office, 2020), including land use and other characteristics for each APN indicating the presence of a dwelling. The parcels dataset includes 34,365 unique APNs within the Madera Subbasin. Of those, 24,192 are listed as having dwellings associated with them (**Figure 3**). Although the County parcel dataset does not include records related to the presence of domestic wells on parcels, the presence of a dwelling on a parcel is interpreted to suggest the presence of a drinking water supply, including in some areas the potential for a domestic well to exist. This includes parcels that are included within a public water system service area.

#### **2.4 Water System Data**

Public Water System, State Small Water System (SSWS), and Local Small Water System (LSWS) service area boundaries from State and local data sources were used to map and evaluate where and how many inferred well locations occur inside of a water system service area and therefore may not be supplied by a domestic well. Water system boundaries are a key dataset for comparing with potential domestic well locations identified through analysis of WCRs, parcels, and permits. The service area boundaries for water systems identified in the Subbasin are presented on **Figure 4** based on the evaluation of PWS, SSWS, and LSWS boundaries as described below.

#### 2.4.1 State Regulated Systems

The PWS boundaries are part of an archived dataset developed by the California Environmental Health Tracking Program (CEHTP) and now maintained by the SWRCB DDW (SWRCB, 2021). This dataset is a publicly available GIS feature class of system boundaries provided voluntarily by water system operators over the period from 2012 to 2019. Previous assessments of this dataset suggest it includes approximately 85 percent of community water systems, although this can vary by region within the state. Of the state regulated PWS boundaries, 21 were identified to have service areas within Madera Subbasin.

#### 2.4.2 County Regulated Systems

The PWS service area dataset from DDW is not intended to include county‐regulated systems. Madera County Public Works representatives reviewed the PWS boundaries and provided additional service area boundary data for county‐regulated water systems (Madera County Environmental Health, 2021). The County provided 12 water system boundaries that are within the Madera Subbasin. Of these, 8 were for water systems that already had boundaries in the CEHTP dataset. In cases where boundaries were available from DDW and Madera County, the union of the two boundaries was retained for use in the analysis. The resulting addition of four new systems increased the total number of water systems in the Subbasin to 25. County staff reviewed the combined water system boundaries and stated it appears complete.

#### 2.4.3 Public Water System Wells

PWS well locations were downloaded from the SWRCB GAMA website (SWRCB, 2021) and used to check for any water system wells in areas not covered by the water systems service area boundaries data. All PWS wells were located within previously delineated water system service area boundaries.

#### **2.5 Community Data**

#### 2.5.1 Census

United States Census data (US Census, 2016) were used for cross‐checking and comparison with domestic well WCRs, domestic well permits, and parcels with dwellings in the Subbasin. The Census data include counts of households by Census area (e.g., block, tract, designated place). The Census data were evaluated to assess whether they could inform the count and locations of domestic wells in the Subbasin. To approximate the number of households that might have a domestic well, Census block area were converted to randomly located points within each block equal in number to the count of households per block. The resulting 28,695 points represent an estimate of the number of households within the Subbasin that might have a domestic well (**Figure 5**). This number is slightly higher than the number of parcels with dwellings in the Subbasin (24,192), a result which might be expected because multiple households can occupy a single parcel. This includes households that are included within a public water system service area.

#### 2.5.2 Disadvantaged Communities

DWR defines Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) as communities with an annual median household income (MHI) less than 80 percent of the Statewide annual MHI (PRC Section 75005(g)), and SDACs as communities with an annual MHI less than 60 percent of the Statewide annual MHI. The statewide median household income (MHI) for the Census American Community Survey (ACS): 2014‐2018 dataset is \$71,228. Therefore, a community where the MHI is less than \$56,982 meets the DAC threshold and a community where the MHI is less than \$42,737 meets the SDAC threshold.

DWR provides a standardized GIS layer of Disadvantaged Communities and Severely Disadvantaged Communities (DACs, SDACs) (DWR, 2021). These data are available as Census Designated Places, Census Tracts, or Census Blockgroups. The Tract‐level data are simply aggregated from the Blockgroup‐level data and were not used in the current analysis. Place-level data are not congruent with Blockgroups or Tracts, typically following established neighborhood boundaries. Place‐level data provide a more focused description of the regions that qualify as DAC or SDAC; however, the Place-level data is only available in Census‐Designated Places (CDPs), and these do not capture more diffuse residential neighborhoods. DACs and SDACs are found in both urban and rural areas in Madera Subbasin. **Figure 6** shows the locations of the Census Designated Places identified as DACs or SDACs by the definition above.

#### **3 ANALYSIS AND RESULTS**

Estimates of domestic wells were developed through analysis and comparison of the data sources discussed above. Estimates of the number and locations of domestic wells in Madera Subbasin were made using four different sources of data and approaches: from WCRs, well permits, parcels with dwellings, and Census households. Domestic well WCRs and well permits provide a more direct indication of the existence (past or present) of a domestic well whereas the parcel data and Census data provide a basis for inferring the existence of domestic wells. The County well permit database is believed to provide the most accurate estimate of the numbers and locations of domestic wells constructed during the available data record (since 1990).

The completeness of the well records in County well permit data are expected to be greater than the WCR database because although regulations state that WCRs are required to be submitted to DWR for all constructed wells, there has historically been little or no verification at the County or State level that a well driller submits a WCR to DWR after a well is completed. In cases where a WCR is submitted, the time elapsed between when a well is drilled and when a WCR is submitted to DWR can be highly variable and information provided on WCRs may not be complete. There are also additional steps involved in entering WCRs into DWR's database after receiving a WCR, which may also introduce timing delays or data entry errors. In contrast, although there is generally no information about a given well's design provided in the County well permit database, there is a fee to obtain a well permit and permits are typically obtained by the driller immediately prior to starting work on a project. Therefore, it is believed that most permitted wells are constructed even if a corresponding WCR is never submitted to DWR by the well driller.

The locational accuracy of well permit records are also believed to be better because most well permit records include data on the parcel where the well is permitted. Many of the WCR records only indicate location by the PLSS section in which the well is located.

Although the well permit data are believed to be more complete and provide better locational accuracy of wells, only the WCR data have information on well depths and other well construction details (**Figure 7a, Figure 7b**). Additionally, while WCRs and well permits generally have a date associated with each record indicating the approximate date of well construction, the parcel and Census datasets do not. However, estimates of well counts based on parcel and Census data do provide a sense for the

maximum possible number of domestic wells, and also a comparative check on the relative spatial density of domestic wells in the Subbasin.

Water system service area boundaries were used to refine domestic well estimates derived from parcel and Census household counts, with the expectation that all parcels and households within a water system boundary are served water by the water system and therefore do not rely on a domestic well. The locations and count of permits and WCRs were assumed to be correct, regardless of their location relative to a PWS service area.

With this information, estimated locations and counts of domestic wells in the Subbasin were developed and well depths were compared to historical groundwater levels and model‐simulated future groundwater levels (based on the modeling conducted during GSP development) to evaluate potential impacts to domestic wells from changing groundwater levels in the Subbasin. The methods and results from these analyses are described below.

#### **3.1 Analysis of Domestic Well Locations and Counts**

#### 3.1.1 Domestic Well WCRs

The domestic well WCRs since 1970 were compared with water system boundaries. Because the WCRs are records of actual wells that were constructed, those located within a water system service area are assumed to be correctly located. It is possible that wells that pre‐existed the establishment of a water system in an area may remain in use after the water system is operational; however, the frequency of this occurring is not known.

Of the 4,822 domestic wells represented by WCRs in the Subbasin, 559 are located within the known water system boundaries (**Figure 8**). This represents approximately 11 percent of the domestic well WCRs in the Subbasin. Some of these domestic well WCRs may be associated with wells that no longer actively supply domestic drinking water. Nevertheless, WCRs within a water service area boundary were still considered in the domestic well inventory and analysis described below, which is a conservative assumption relative to likely domestic well counts.

#### 3.1.2 Domestic Well Permits

Similar to the WCR estimate, permits are expected to accurately identify well locations, but domestic well permits may exist for wells drilled and constructed prior to the operation of a water system in an area. The use of such wells may have been discontinued when a residence was hooked up to a water system, although this may not always be the case and some domestic wells within water system service areas may still be operational.

In contrast to the WCR dataset, which relies on submittal and entry of a WCR in DWR's database, the County well permit dataset is expected to be a more comprehensive representation of the wells drilled in the County for the period over which it spans (1990 to present). Although the comparisons across different datasets described below highlight differences between data sources and the estimates of domestic wells derived from each, this study did not attempt to assess the accuracy of the well permit database in relation to actual domestic wells.

Of the 4,210 domestic well permits in the Subbasin, 333 are located within known water system boundaries. This represents approximately eight percent of the domestic well permits in the Subbasin. Some of these domestic well permits may be associated with wells that no longer actively supply domestic drinking water. Nevertheless, domestic well permits within a water service area boundary were still considered in the domestic well inventory and analysis described below.

#### 3.1.3 Parcels with Dwellings

For the purpose of assessing the maximum possible number of domestic wells in the Subbasin, all parcels with a dwelling but not within a water system service area were counted. In this approach, a parcel is considered within a water system service area if its centroid is within the service area.

Based on these criteria, within the Madera Subbasin there are a total of 24,192 parcels with dwellings, 5,898 of which are outside of the service area boundaries of all 29 PWS and County‐regulated systems serving residential parcels. These 5,898 parcels representing potential domestic well locations are presented on **Figure 9**. There are several areas within the Madera Subbasin with a high density of parcels with dwellings that are not covered by a water system boundary.

#### 3.1.4 Census households

Due to the irregular shape of Census blocks and the inconsistent alignment of blocks with other important boundaries in the Subbasin (e.g., Subbasin, water service areas) the Census data provided limited utility for the inventorying of domestic wells, although they do provide an approximate check on the maximum overall number of potential domestic wells in the Subbasin. Conversion of the Census household counts to points and comparing to water system service areas provides estimates between 7,109 and 7,393 potential households outside of the water system service areas. Although the total number of parcels and total number of households within the Subbasin are reasonably consistent, the number of households estimated to be outside of the water system service areas is considerably higher than the number of parcels outside of the water system service areas and is not believed to be an accurate metric for inventorying domestic wells.

#### 3.1.5 Comparisons of Domestic Well Location Information Sources

#### 3.1.5.1 Domestic Wells Within PWS Service Areas

While most residences within a PWS service area are supplied with drinking water by that PWS, it is not unusual for wells that were drilled prior to the creation of the PWS to be retained and used for part, or all, of a residence's use, including for drinking water or landscape irrigation.

Of the 4,822 WCRs since 1970 located in the Madera Subbasin, 559 are located within a water system service area. Of the 4,210 permits (since 1990) located within the Madera Subbasin, 310 were located within a water system service area. These represent approximately 12 percent and seven percent, respectively, of the wells identified from these data sources.

Of the 24,192 parcels with dwellings noted in the APN dataset, 18,294 are within a water system boundary. Similarly, of the 28,708 households in the Subbasin indicated by the 2010 Census data, 21,503 are within a water system service area.

The count of known locations of permits and WCRs within water systems, when compared to the number of residences within those systems based on parcel and Census data, represent between one and three percent of the number of residences within those service areas. This suggests that the number of domestic well permits and WCRs located within water system boundaries is a small fraction of the number of likely residences within those water system areas. Accordingly, this comparison suggests that neither the WCR nor well permit data identify a large number of domestic wells within water system boundaries. Although this does not speak to the accuracy of the WCR and well permit data in locating wells in other areas of the Subbasin, they do not appear to identify an unreasonable number of domestic wells within areas covered by water systems.

#### 3.1.5.2 Comparing WCR Locations to Well Permits

The Madera County well permits dataset is believed to be more complete in representing wells drilled in the County, but it only extends back to 1990. To provide an appropriate comparison between the WCR dataset and the well permit dataset, a subset of the WCRs since 1990 (those dated after 1989), were considered. In the Madera Subbasin, roughly two-thirds of domestic well WCRs have construction dates after 1989. For this analysis, WCR records without construction dates are assumed to be drilled in 1990.

The subset of domestic wells with WCRs since 1990 has many similar characteristics as the dataset for WCRs since 1970, with several noteworthy differences. As shown in **Table 3**, proportionally, the WCR dataset since 1990 has fewer WCR records located in water system service areas. This is reasonable, as it is consistent with the understanding that many of the domestic well WCRs located within water system service areas are for wells drilled prior to the creation or expansion of those water systems.

There is no direct linkage between WCRs and well permits on record (i.e., WCRs commonly do not indicate well permit numbers) for majority of the wells, and the available method for geolocating records for a given well present in both datasets may differ. However, it was determined that 2,691 of the parcels associated with permit locations coincided with WCR locations for domestic wells (**Figure 10**).

This relatively low rate of coincidence is most likely a function of poor accuracy of the WCR locations. The permit location error is generally related to the area of the parcel within which they are located and is commonly less than half the distance of the maximum parcel dimension. As parcel size decreases, the accuracy of the locating of well permits tends to increase. Many WCR locations have much higher error, especially those that rely on locations from the PLSS section centroid.

#### 3.1.5.3 Comparing Domestic Well Permits with Parcel Characteristics

Of the 95 well permit locations produced by geocoding addresses in the well permit database, 62 did not fall within a parcel. Such locations generally occur between parcels on streets. For these locations, the attributes from the nearest parcel were used to compare. The parcel Use Codes for the 3,700 unique locations are summarized here:

- 1. One residence: 88%
- 2. Two residences: 7%
- 3. Urban Non‐Residential: 3%
- 4. Agricultural: 2%

Of the 4,210 domestic well permits (at 3,700 unique locations), 3,672 permits (87 percent of permits) at 3,205 unique locations (87 percent of unique locations) were in parcels with dwellings, as indicated on the parcel dataset, suggesting that a residence is present on the parcel associated with the well permit (**Figures 11a and 11b**).

#### 3.1.5.4 Comparisons of Parcels with Dwellings and WCRs

Of the 5,898 parcels listed as having dwellings in the Madera Subbasin, and not within a water system boundary, 1,901 coincide with the location of WCRs located as described above. A total of 285 parcels with dwellings located within water systems also coincided with WCR locations (**Figure 12**). Nearly all the dwelling parcels within water system boundaries and also intersecting WCRs are located in the Maintenance District (MD) 10 – Madera Ranchos water system.

#### 3.1.6 Final Domestic Well Count and Location Estimates

The County permit database includes 4,210 domestic (or considered domestic for this analysis) wells installed since 1990. For providing a direct comparison of the domestic well counts from the WCR database, the count of WCRs was limited to WCRs with dates since 1990 (3,446 domestic well WCRs) to allow for direct comparison to available County permits. This comparison yields a ratio of 1.22 between the domestic well permit count and the domestic well WCR count. Well permits are believed to provide a more complete representation of wells constructed in the Subbasin, but these permit records do not contain information on well perforations and depths and only date back to 1990. As a result, the ratio of well permits to WCRs for the period since 1990 provides a useful metric for scaling of results derived during the evaluation of potential impacts on domestic wells from changing water levels, an analysis which relies heavily on well construction information available only on WCRs. The domestic well impacts analysis is described below.

#### **3.2 Evaluation of Potential Domestic Well Impacts**

A key consideration in the implementation of the GSP for the Madera Subbasin is the potential occurrence of impacts to domestic well users due to declining water levels. As part of implementing the GSP, the Subbasin is in the process of evaluating and designing a Domestic Well Mitigation Program targeting domestic wells that may be impacted by future declines in groundwater levels. To support this effort, the effects of historical and future groundwater levels on domestic wells in the Subbasin were evaluated.

This analysis involved comparing domestic well perforation and depth information to historical groundwater levels and potential future groundwater levels, as simulated by the groundwater model (MCSIM) utilized during the GSP development. Simulated groundwater level conditions from MCSim were used to estimate the number of domestic wells that may go dry during the GSP implementation period from 2020 through 2040, the period during which the Subbasin will be working towards achieving sustainability as required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). WCR records for domestic wells (and the well construction information provided on WCRs) were used to estimate well depth information for evaluating impacts. The ratio of well permits to WCRs (1.22) was used to upscale the results derived from these analyses conducted using WCR data.

#### 3.2.1 WCR Domestic Well Construction Information

Of the 4,822 domestic well WCRs in the Madera Subbasin, 4,524 included some information on perforated interval (top of bottom of perforations) or total depth. As mentioned earlier, several inconsistencies in construction information were noted in the initial WCR dataset (e.g., total well depth less than depth to top of perforations, depth to bottom of perforations less than top of perforations), so multiple levels of quality checks were conducted on the well construction data in the WCR database to assess the reliability of the information. Only WCR records determined to have sufficiently reliable well construction information (i.e., lack of obviously conflicting information on the well construction) were included in the summary and analyses relating to domestic well construction in the Subbasin. In analyses using well perforations (screens), where data for bottom of perforations was not available, the reported total well depth was used. A total of 3,834 WCRs included top of screened interval information. For wells lacking information for either bottom of perforations or top of perforations, the average values for wells in the same section were used. Where a section had fewer than three wells with reported depth or top of screen data, the average values from wells in the same section and the eight surrounding sections were used. This resulted in estimates of top and bottom of perforated Intervals for all 4,822 domestic well WCRs in the Subbasin. **Figure 7a** and **Figure 7b** show the depth of domestic wells in the Subbasin based on these estimates.

#### 3.2.2 Domestic Well Impacts Analysis Methods

Simulated groundwater levels output from the MCSim model developed by Luhdorff & Scalmanini, Consulting Engineers (LSCE) and described in the 2020 GSP for Madera Subbasin were queried to produce depth to water (DTW) datasets for the Subbasin for the period from 1989 through 2070. MCSim is a multi-layered model and based on review of the well data and consideration of the hydrogeologic conceptual model and groundwater conditions described in the GSP, model layers 3 and 4 were determined to most appropriately correspond with the production zones for most domestic wells in the Subbasin. The simulated DTW datasets for model Layers 3 and 4 were used to extract DTW values for different time periods at all WCR locations; DTW values at each domestic well WCR location were compared with the top and bottom of perforations (screens) values for each WCR. Based on this comparison, the wells were assigned DTW values for either model Layer 3 or 4. If a well was screened at least 50 percent in Layer 4 or deeper, the well was assigned DTW values for Layer 4. If more than 50 percent of the screened interval was above Layer 4 (in Layer 3 or shallower) then Layer 3 DTW values were assigned to the well.

Simulated depth to water model output for Layers 3 and 4 for the years from 1989 to 2039 were then compared to the screened intervals for each domestic well (WCR) to assess if each well was wet or dry during each year. For each year, the fall simulated DTW (on October  $31<sup>st</sup>$ ) in layers 3 and 4 of the model were assessed for each well location.
The analysis was performed using different analysis periods and methods. Generally, the analysis was conducted using five‐year analysis periods, with the first analysis period starting in 1989 and extending to 2014 or 2015 followed by shorter five-year intervals thereafter. Analyses included comparisons based on snapshots of DTW conditions at the end of each analysis interval (generally five-year analysis periods) and separate comparisons based on the maximum depth to water found during each analysis period. Variations of analyses were also performed using simulated model output from the projected model run used in the GSP and also separately on a model run utilizing a projected future hydrology that included drier conditions during the early years of the GSP Implementation Period, conditions that are more consistent with the recent hydrology experienced in the area. In all analyses, if the simulated DTW in the assigned model Layer at a well location falls below the required minimum level of saturation in relation to the depth of the well, either at the end of each analysis period (or in the year within each five‐year period that generally had the lowest water levels) for the maximum DTW scenario), the well was considered to have gone dry during the analysis period. Once a well was concluded to have gone dry in an analysis scenario, it was removed from the pool of potential wells that could go dry in subsequent years. The sensitivity of model results to different assumptions, analysis periods, and WCR data restrictions were tested and evaluated.

The parameters used in the analysis are defined as follows:

**P = the base year for the analysis periods.** This defines the end of the initial historical analysis period (after 1989) during which wells were evaluated for historically having gone dry. This is generally Fall 2019, indicating a historical analysis period of 1989‐2019, but 2018 was also used as the ending year for the historical period during sensitivity analyses (because groundwater levels in 2018 were generally lower than in 2019).

**S = minimum saturation threshold above the well total depth for a well to remain wetted.** This is assumed to be 10 feet in the baseline analysis, but the sensitivity of analysis results to varying this value was conducted to evaluate the influence of this parameter on analysis results.

**E = the earliest year of installation for the WCRs considered.** This reflects the cutoff year for the construction date on WCRs intended to reflect wells that may have been active at the time of the base year considered based on typical domestic well life expectancy.

Appropriate scaling of the results of these impacts analyses based on WCR was also considered based on the ratio (1.22) of domestic well permits to domestic well WCRs determined previously. This ratio is developed from a direct comparison of domestic well permits and WCRs with dates since 1990. The scaling ratio is developed for the entire Subbasin and is assumed to have limited spatial or temporal bias across the Subbasin or across the period since 1990. The potential for bias in the ratio has not been evaluated.

The baseline analysis scenario of potential domestic well impacts involved the parameters listed below.

- Snapshots of DTW at the end of each analysis period
- The ending year for historical analysis is 2019, with historical analysis period 1989-2019 (P = 2019). Corresponding analysis periods as follows:
	- o 1989‐2019
	- o 2020‐2024
	- o 2025‐2029
	- o 2030‐2034
	- o 2035‐2039

The analysis periods were selected to correspond with the dates of the Interim Milestones and preparation of Five=Year Update Reports.

- $\bullet$  Minimum well saturation threshold of 10 feet (S = 10).
- Using projected model run from GSP (without early sequence of dry years).
- $\bullet$  Wells analyzed based on the WCR count of wells installed since 1970 (E = 1970).

Because the early years of the projected model period, including during the early GSP implementation period, have been dry, an alternative analysis scenario evaluated potential domestic well impacts based on simulated groundwater levels from a model run that starts with a drier sequence of years. This analysis involved the same parameters as the baseline analysis (described above) but used simulated groundwater levels from a different projected model run with an early dry period.

### 3.2.3 Results of Domestic Well Impacts Analyses for Baseline GSP Climate Scenario

In the baseline analysis scenario described above, a total of 739 of the 4,822 domestic wells (from WCRs) analyzed are indicated to have gone dry during years prior to 2020. A total of 772 wells are projected to go dry between 2020 and 2039 (**Table 4a**); the analysis suggests 287 dry wells of the total of 772 occurring during the period 2020‐2024. **Table 5a** includes the results for this analysis when scaled up by a multiplier of 1.22 based on the ratio of well permits to WCRs.

### 3.2.3.1 Spatial Distribution of Dry Wells

**Figures 13a** to **13e** show the distribution of dry wells (and remaining wetted wells) in each of the analysis years for the baseline analysis. The predicted dry wells are clustered in the eastern parts of the Subbasin, with a greater number of dry wells predicted along and to the east of Highway 99. There are two higher‐density clusters located north of the Fresno River and south of Dry Creek, and an especially large cluster in the Madera Ranchos area south of highway 145 and north of Avenue 12 in the southeastern part of the Subbasin.

Most of the domestic wells that are predicted to go dry over the 20‐Year GSP Implementation Period in the Base Case occur in the 2020‐2024 and 2030‐2034 five‐year intervals (**Tables 4a and 5a**). Groundwater levels stabilize and begin to recover after 2035 and no additional wells are predicted to go dry in the Base Case after 2035. The timing of domestic wells going dry is closely related to the assumed sequence of average, dry, and wet years applied for the Base Case, which is based on a historical sequence of years that represent overall average conditions for the 20‐Year period.

### 3.2.3.2 Impacts on Disadvantaged Communities

Some dry domestic wells are predicted to occur in DAC and SDAC areas. The Fairmead area and City of Madera area SDACs are predicted to see significant numbers of wells going dry during the implementation period. In addition, the Valley Lake Ranchos, Lake Madera Country Estates, and Bonadelle Ranchos 5 neighborhoods, all located in Census blockgroups east of the City of Madera that qualify as DACs, are predicted to see significant numbers of wells going dry (**Figure 13f**).

Nonetheless, based on the analysis presented here, DACs and SDACs will not be disproportionately impacted by declining groundwater levels. Rather, these neighborhoods will see impacts proportional to the number of domestic wells and the depth of decline in water levels in their regions, as with any other wells examined in non‐DAD/SDAC areas. DACs and SDACs in the Madera Subbasin are primarily located near urban centers, and thus near existing water system service areas. Opportunities for annexation or consolidation of DACs and SDACs into existing State- or County-regulated systems may provide better value than efforts to deepen existing wells in these areas.

### 3.2.3.3 Scaling Estimates

The previous analyses are all based on WCR counts of wells drilled since 1970 or 1990. A more accurate number of wells, however, is more likely the number of Permits in the permit database provided by Madera County.

**Figure 14** shows that the spatial distributions of the two datasets are similar. As shown in that figure, the areas with large differences between the WCR and Permit datasets (shown as red and blue in the figure) are smaller areas that are peripheral in the Subbasin. The largest portion of the Subbasin is represented by ratios near 1:1 (from 0.8:1 to 1.2:1). The region of the Subbasin near the City of Madera and to the north has a higher ratio of permits to WCRs, and this is an expected outcome due to the denser population and presence of municipal water systems in that area. Therefore, simply scaling the count of wells up for each period should be adequate. The number of Permits for wells installed since 1990 is 122% of the number of WCRs for wells in the same period, averaged over the Subbasin (**Table 2**).

Scaling the results up to match the expected number of wells based on the Permits‐to‐WCRs ratio of 1.22:1 yields 942 wells going dry between 2020 and 2040 (**Table 5a**).

#### 3.2.4 Results of Domestic Well Impacts Analyses for Alternative Dry-Start Climate Scenario

The same analysis was conducted as described above for the GSP Climate Scenario, but instead using an alternative climate sequence for the GSP Implementation Period with more dry years at the beginning of the 20‐Year climate sequence. In the alternative analysis scenario, a total of 755 of the 4,822 domestic

wells (from WCRs) analyzed are indicated to have gone dry during years prior to 2020. A total of 1,294 wells are projected to go dry between 2020 and 2039 (**Table 4b**); the analysis suggests 350 dry wells of the total of 1294 occurring during the period 2020‐2024. **Table 5b** includes the results for this analysis when scaled up by a multiplier of 1.22 based on the ratio of well permits to WCRs.

# 3.2.5 Sensitivity Analyses on Potential Domestic Well Impacts

To understand influences from different analysis assumptions and parameters, sensitivity analyses were conducted on a number of aspects of the analysis. These sensitivity analyses evaluated different approaches to evaluating the DTW at well locations over each analysis period (e.g., DTW at end of period vs maximum DTW during analysis period), the required minimum saturation threshold for concluding a well is dry, and different cutoff dates for WCRs included in the analysis.

# 3.2.5.1 Snapshot of Depth at End of Reporting Period vs. Maximum Depth During Reporting Period

The baseline analysis described above compares domestic well depths to groundwater levels at the end of each Five‐Year Update reporting period using the years 2019, 2024, 2029, 2034 and 2039. As noted previously, these baseline analysis periods were selected because the final year of each period aligns with the IM and Five-Year Update reporting periods. However, if the lowest groundwater levels do not align with the end of each analysis period, this method may not capture the full extent of potential impacts on domestic wells.

By choosing analysis period ending years as 2023, 2028, 2033, and 2038, the lowest groundwater levels in each five-year period will typically be captured along with the lowest pre-2020 groundwater levels (generally occurring in 2015 or 2018). Therefore, a separate analysis was performed using the maximum DTW in each five-year period. This analysis results in a small decrease (23 wells) in the total number of wells (749) expected to go dry between 2020 and 2040 compared to the Base Case (**Table 6**). The reason for the decrease of dry well occurrence between 2020 and 2040 is this analysis results in more wells going dry prior to the start of the GSP implementation period in 2020 due to the lowest pre‐2020 groundwater levels occurring prior to Fall 2019, (which is the year used in the Base Case to determine well going dry prior to 2020). Therefore, the base case with a greater number of wells going dry between 2020 and 2040 is used for further sensitivity analyses described below because it is a more conservative estimate of dry wells.

### 3.2.5.2 Minimum Saturation Threshold

The baseline analysis comparing DTW and total well depths included a minimum well saturation threshold that a well is considered dry when the groundwater levels falls below a level less than 10 feet above the bottom of the well. This baseline assumption was based on the expectation that the required saturation in a domestic well is not great because of the generally low pumping rates required for domestic wells. The sensitivity of analysis results for this minimum saturation assumption were evaluated using alternative minimum well saturation levels. Sensitivity to the minimum saturation threshold was tested by varying the parameter (S) and observing the change in the count of wells going dry in each analysis period (**Table 7**).

The number of wells going dry over the period from 2020 to 2039 increases as the minimum saturation threshold is increased from 0 feet to 30 feet and then decreases with greater minimum saturation thresholds (**Figure 15**). The reason for this pattern is that at minimum saturation thresholds exceeding 30 feet, more wells are considered to be going dry before 2020 relative to after 2020 for those greater thresholds (i.e., the threshold applies both before and after 2020). The number of dry wells at the saturation threshold of 10 feet is 772, it increases to 890 at 30 feet, and at 50 feet it declines to 735. This analysis suggests that the number of wells expected to go dry is sensitive to the saturation threshold applied, but the relationship between saturation threshold and number of dry wells predicted after 2019 varies depending on how many wells go dry before 2020. Considering the results of this sensitivity analysis and the previous discussion regarding saturation needed to support typical domestic well pumping rates, the application of a minimum saturation threshold of 10 feet is interpreted to be a reasonable threshold for estimating the potential number of domestic wells that may go dry during the GSP implementation period.

## 3.2.5.3 WCR Cutoff Dates

The influence on results from varying the earliest year of WCR records used in the dry well analysis was also evaluated. As expected, the average well depths for older wells tend to be shallower than younger wells, likely because of the declining water levels that have occurred in the area and the resulting need to drill to greater depths to ensure reliable water supply. This trend towards deeper wells is illustrated in a comparison of the average total well depths for WCRs since 1970 and those since 1990, as presented in **Table 3.**

The changes in the numbers of total wells analyzed and the resulting numbers of dry wells drop as the cutoff date for WCRs is increased. The change from a WCR cutoff year of 1970 to 1975 has minimal (less than 10 percent) impact on all counts, but as this cutoff date in increased further the dry well count drops faster than the total well count (**Table 8**). The implication of this trend is that as the WCR cutoff date is moved forward in time from 1970, older wells that would be counted as going dry are not included in the analysis, resulting in a smaller number of wells predicted to go dry. Although many wells constructed since 1970 likely are no longer in existence or actively use, the 1970 WCR cutoff date provides an appropriately conservative estimate of wells predicted to go dry during the implementation period.

# 3.2.6 Potential Replacement Costs for Wells Impacted

The potential costs for addressing domestic well issues were evaluated in some detail. These costs were largely based on discussions with drillers who install domestic wells and replace pumps on a regular basis. These costs are summarized in **Table 9**, and include lowering a domestic well pump (\$1,000 to \$2,000), replacing a domestic well pump (\$5,000 to \$7,000), and drilling/installing a new domestic well to replace an existing well (\$25,000 to \$35,000). Estimates of total costs for a Domestic Well Mitigation Program were based on estimates of total number of dry wells expected to occur between 2020 and 2039, with WCRs scaled to the number of County well permits and considering both the GSP climate scenario and the alternative dry‐start climate scenario for the GSP Implementation Period.

# 3.2.7 Updated Economic Analysis

As described in the Introduction, **Attachment 1** (Domestic Well Replacement Economic Analysis) incorporates updated estimates provided in this TM for the number of dry domestic wells into an economic analysis intended to replace Appendix 3.D of the Madera Subbasin GSP with newer information. The economic analysis evaluated the difference in costs for implementing a Domestic Well Mitigation Program concurrent with gradual reductions in groundwater pumping over a twenty‐year period vs. not having a Domestic Well Mitigation Program and immediately implementing demand management and other PMAs to eliminate the overdraft in the subbasin to avoid significant and unreasonable adverse impacts on domestic well users. The overall conclusion remains consistent with the GSP: the cost of implementing a Domestic Well Mitigation Program is significantly less than the alternative.

# **3.3 Public Water System Wells**

PWS wells data are maintained by the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water in the Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS); however, these data are incomplete at this time. In the Madera Subbasin, only 7 PWS wells are listed in SDWIS. Therefore, the WCR database was queried for PWS wells. There were 82 wells drilled in 1970 or later and tagged as "Municipal" or "Public". This discrepancy is due, in part, to the fact that WCRs do not typically distinguish between Public Water Systems and other residential water systems serving more than one household. When a well driller fills out the WCR, the "Municipal" box is checked if the well is to be used for any purpose other than irrigation, industrial processes, or domestic single‐household use. These can include PWS wells but can also include Local Small and State Small Water System wells (LSWS and SSWS, respectively), and wells used for drinking water at facilities such as rest stops, churches, schools, and other locations that sometimes are not supplied by a local PWS. The wells identified here are shown in **Figure 16**.

Depth to the bottom of perforated interval ranged from 30 to 1000 feet below ground surface in these wells. Of the 82, 10 were drilled prior to 1970 and are not considered here. These wells were compared to the snapshots of Depth to Water for the model years 2019, 2024, 2029, 2034, and 2039, with the GSP climate scenario. **Table 10** shows the results of this analysis.

Based on the comparison with the modeled depths to groundwater at these 5‐year intervals, 10 PWS or other municipal wells are expected to have gone dry by 2020, and another 3 over the implementation period. Further analysis with data provided by individual well‐operators would be required to identify specific water systems that are vulnerable.

# **3.4 Comparison of Estimated Domestic Well Impacts to Online Databases**

The estimated numbers and locations of dry wells described in this TM (modeled dry wells) were compared to two available datasets related to reported domestic well supply issues: DWR's Household Water Supply Shortage Reporting System, and Self‐Help Enterprises (SHE) Tank Water Program participants (**Attachment 2**). While the assumptions underlying the estimates of modeled dry wells in this TM differ in some regards to the well issues included in these two datasets, the spatial patterns in

modeled dry wells are very similar to the spatial patterns in the DWR and SHE datasets. Overall, the total numbers of modeled dry wells estimated in this TM are greater than the number of well issues included in the DWR and SHE datasets; however, it is likely that not all dry wells have been reported in these other two datasets. More details on the DWR Household Water Supply Shortage Reporting System dataset and the SHE Tank Water Program participants dataset and comparisons of these datasets to modeled dry wells presented in this TM are provided in **Attachment 2**.

## **4 PRIORITIZATION OF AREAS FOR ADDITIONAL MONITORING**

Expansion of the monitoring network is important for areas of the Subbasin with higher densities of domestic drinking water wells. In addition, the dry well analysis performed above was used as a guide to locating areas that should be more closely monitored. The monitoring network should consider the presence of vulnerable populations, such as those reliant on groundwater and DAC/SDAC areas. Another key variable was to consider the locations of existing nested monitoring wells installed recently at seven locations throughout the Madera Subbasin.

The domestic well inventory analysis conducted for this study illustrates that domestic wells are most concentrated along and east of Highway 99, and that dry domestic wells are predicted to be most prevalent east of Highway 99. There are two existing nested monitoring wells located along Highway 99 in the northern portion of Madera Subbasin and one nested monitoring well located east of Highway 99 about mid‐way between the eastern subbasin boundary and Highway 99 in the northern portion of Madera Subbasin. The two most dense clusters of domestic wells occur east of Highway 99 along Avenue 21 (Valley Lake Ranchos and Lake Madera Country Estates) and immediately south of Highway 145 (Madera Ranchos area). These are considered primary areas for siting of new nested monitoring wells (**Figure 17**). Four secondary areas for potential consideration of monitoring well siting were also identified in areas of significant but less dense domestic well clusters; these locations would fill gaps between existing nested monitoring wells and improve overall spacing and density of nested well monitoring sites in Madera Subbasin.

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# **6 TABLES**



*Table 1. Summary of domestic well WCRs by decade.*

*Table 2. Comparisons between different estimation methods.*





#### *Table 3. Relative Similarity Between Wells Recorded Since 1970 and Those Recorded Since 1990.*

#### Table 4a. Summary of Dry Wells for Base Case. Wells drilled in 1970 or later, based on snapshot of depth to groundwater at end *of period. Assumes 10 feet of well saturation above bottom of screen.*



Table 4b. Summary of Dry Wells for Dry Start Case. Wells drilled in 1970 or later, based on snapshot of depth to groundwater at *end of period. Assumes 10 feet of well saturation above bottom of screen.*



#### Table 5a: Adjusted estimates of dry wells for Base Case based on WCRs since 1970 upscaled using ratio of permits to WCRs *(1.22).*



Table 5b: Adjusted estimates of dry wells for Dry Start Case based on WCRs since 1970 upscaled using ratio of permits to WCRs *(1.22).*



#### Table 6: Dry Well Summary Based on Snapshots of Groundwater Depth at End of Periods ending in 2015, 2018, 2023, 2028, *2033, and 2038.*









#### *Table 8: Effect of Varying Minimum Installation Year on Counts of Wells and Dry Wells.*

#### *Table 9: Summary of Domestic Pump and Well Costs.*





#### Table 10: PWS and other Municipal Wells - Dry Well Summary Based on Snapshots of Groundwater Depth at End of Periods *ending in 2019, 2024, 2029, 2034, and 2039.*

## **7 FIGURES**



*Figure 1a. Well Permits for new construction domestic wells located by best available method.*



*Figure 1b. Well Completion Report new construction domestic well counts by Section.*



*Figure 2a: Permit locations and geolocation method in Madera Subbasin.*



*Figure 2b. Permit location counts by Township/Range/Section.*



*Figure 3: Inferred well locations based on Parcel Dwelling Status.*



*Figure 4: Water System Boundaries in Madera County.*



*Figure 5: Inferred well locations based on 2010 Census Household counts.*



*Figure 6: DACs and SDACs in the Madera Subbasin.*



*Figure 7a: Domestic wells in Madera Subbasin with depth from WCR.*



*Figure 7b. Domestic Wells in Madera Subbasin with Average Depth by Township/Range/Section.*



*Figure 8: Domestic WCRs compared with Community PWS, County Maintenance Districts, and Community Service Areas.*



Figure 9: Parcels with Dwellings as Inferred Well Locations. With Community PWS, County Maintenance Districts, and Community Service Areas.



*Figure 10: Permit locations with colocated WCRs.*



*Figure 11a: Domestic Well Permits Compared with PWS, Community Service Districts and County Maintenance Districts.*



*Figure 11b: Domestic Well Permits Compared with Parcel Characteristics.*



Figure 12: Inferred Domestic Well locations based on Parcels with Dwellings, with Water Systems and presence/absence of WCRs on parcel.



Figure 13a: Status of domestic wells in 2019 - Based on WCR well depths and locations compared to MCSIM groundwater depths.



Figure 13b: Status of Wells in 2024 - Based on WCR Well Depths and Locations Compared to MCSIM Groundwater Depths.



Figure 13c: Status of Wells in 2029 - Based on WCR Well Depths and Locations Compared to MCSIM Groundwater Depths.



Figure 13d: Status of Wells in 2034 - Based on WCR Well Depths and Locations Compared to MCSIM Groundwater Depths.



Figure 13e: Status of Wells in 2039 - Based on WCR Well Depths and Locations Compared to MCSIM Groundwater Depths.



*Figure 13f: DACs and SDACs with WCR‐Based Wells and Predicted 2039 Status.*


*Figure 14: Map of domestic well Permits compared to domestic well WCR (from 1990 and later) locations.*



*Figure 15: Counts of Dry Wells after 2019 as <sup>a</sup> Function of Minimum Saturation Threshold.*



*Figure 16: Public Water System and other Municipal or Community Water System wells. Based on WCR data.*



*Figure 17: Map of Proposed New Monitoring Well Sites.*

### **ATTACHMENT 1**

**Domestic Well Replacement Economic Analysis – Madera Subbasin Update**



ERA Economics 1111 Kennedy Place, Suite #4 Davis, CA 95616

## **Technical Memorandum**



## **Purpose and Background**

In June 2019 ERA provided a technical memorandum (TM) estimating the cost and benefit of more rapid implementation of demand management under the Madera Subbasin Joint GSP. The economic analysis was included as Appendix 3D to the Madera Subbasin Joint GSP. The analysis was prepared with the best available data and information at that time. After finalizing the GSP, the LSCE and DE consultant teams have continued to assist the Madera Subbasin GSAs with GSP implementation and annual GSP reporting. LSCE was engaged by the Madera County GSA to prepare an updated domestic well inventory for the subbasin.

The economic analysis included as Appendix 3D to the Madera Subbasin Joint GSP estimated the total cost of replacing domestic wells potentially impacted by declining groundwater levels under baseline conditions without SGMA and under the draft proposed GSP implementation plan (so-called "with-SGMA" scenario).

This technical memorandum (TM) serves as an update to those estimates by: (i) updating the project and demand management schedule to reflect the adopted allocation in the Madera Subbasin, (ii) incorporating updated data and analysis on potentially impacted wells from the domestic well inventory, (iii) updating all costs and benefits to current dollars (e.g., well replacement costs), and (iv) refining the economic analysis to compare the cost and benefit of accelerating demand management specified in the GSP. That is, the 2019 analysis compared the draft proposed GSP implementation to baseline conditions without SGMA, whereas this analysis compares the proposed plan with phased implementation of projects and management actions (PMAs) to an accelerated, immediate implementation of PMAs, notably with immediate, full demand management to avoid further domestic well impacts.<sup>1</sup>

These updates to the data affect the resulting economic analysis and results. The 2019 estimate of domestic wells needing to be replaced without increased demand management was 228 wells, which at that time was doubled to account for potential under-reporting. In addition, a sensitivity calculation as

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Whereas the cost of immediate demand management implementation has been included, the effect on cost of accelerating recharge and supply projects has not yet been estimated. A full cost estimate of projects for all GSAs in the subbasin is still under development. If this additional cost were included, it would strengthen the conclusion of this analysis.

part of the earlier analysis verified that the conclusions would have held even if the number of affected wells were substantially larger. The updated domestic well inventory puts the number of domestic wells potentially needing replacement between 1,260 and 1,578 over the 20-year GSP implementation period. This TM briefly summarizes the updated analysis, results, and summary conclusions.

## **Summary Conclusions**

Results of this updated analysis comparing the cost of accelerated PMA implementation to the benefit of avoided domestic well replacement costs support the general conclusion of the 2019 analysis. The loss in agricultural value from more rapid demand management still greatly exceeds domestic well replacement costs even though the estimated number of potentially dewatered domestic wells has increased and the cost of replacement for each domestic well has increased by 20 percent. That is, the results of the economic analysis show that the additional cost of more rapid demand management is substantially greater than the cost of replacing potentially dewatered domestic wells and paying higher pumping costs due to lower water levels. This supports the phased implementation schedule and domestic well mitigation program defined in the GSP.

# **Updated Assumptions**

Assumptions and results below are summarized for each of the cost categories considered. All costs (or savings) are expressed as constant 2021 dollars converted to present value using a 3.5 percent real  $(inflation-free)$  discount rate<sup>2</sup>. The two implementation scenarios compared are referred to as  $GSP$ *implementation* (the phased implementation as described in the GSP) scenario and the *immediate demand reduction* (full demand reduction to eliminate overdraft from 2021 onward) scenario.

- 1. **Number of dewatered wells needing replacement**. Revised estimates of dewatered wells are calculated and described in the Technical Memorandum prepared by LSCE for the Madera Subbasin Domestic Well Inventory. For this analysis, a total of 1,578 wells were estimated to be dewatered, spread across four 5-year periods. The cost analysis further assumed that well impacts would be evenly divided by year within each  $5$ -year period<sup>3</sup>. For the comparison scenario with immediate demand reduction, it was assumed that none of those wells would need replacement.
- 2. **Costs to replace dewatered domestic wells**. The 2019 estimate of an average \$25,000 per replaced domestic well is updated to \$30,000 per domestic well.
- 3. **Groundwater pumping depth to water (DTW).** The average DTW for the GSP implementation scenario was provided from groundwater model projections described in the Madera Subbasin Joint GSP. The immediate demand reduction scenario is intended to represent immediate elimination of average annual overdraft. A time series was created that followed the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The current federal discount rate for water projects is 2.25%, but a real rate of 3.5% better reflects borrowing conditions in Madera County. A 1.5% increase or decrease in the real discount rate does not affect the conclusions of the analysis.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The timing of the well replacement within each 5-year period does not affect the conclusions of this analysis.

general hydrologic variation estimated for the GSP implementation scenario but held the DTW the same on average during the 2021-2040 implementation period. The ending (2040) difference in DTW between the two scenarios was then carried forward beyond 2040. These pumping depth differences are the basis for the estimated annual pumping cost savings.

- 4. **Changes in variable costs to pump groundwater, for both domestic and agricultural users.** Energy prices, estimated using a mix of PG&E's latest electricity rates for agricultural pumping, have increased substantially. The analysis now uses an average of PG&E's 2021 AG-B and AG-C peak and off-peak summer rates, resulting in an estimate of \$0.40 per acre-foot per foot of lift for the variable cost to pump groundwater. As a result, more rapid demand management provides greater savings (avoided pumping lift) for domestic and agricultural pumping. All agricultural and domestic groundwater pumping in the basin would receive this avoided lift benefit from faster demand reduction.
- 5. **Costs of demand management under GSP implementation.** Costs of demand reduction have been revised based on the latest estimates of the net return to agricultural water use developed for planning the SALC program. In addition, pumping volumes have been updated to reflect current conditions and the planned ramp-down adopted in the Madera County GSA groundwater allocation ordinance (applicable to the GSP implementation scenario only). These values do not represent average returns to all lands and crops in the subbasin but rather the lands and crops more likely to participate in a demand reduction program. For purposes of this analysis, the lost net return from demand reduction is valued at \$230 per acre-foot<sup>4</sup>.

#### **Results**

The following discussion compares costs between the GSP implementation scenario and the (alternative) immediate demand management scenario. General observations are:

- Demand management costs are greater in the immediate implementation scenario because demand management would be implemented sooner (immediately) and for more years during the GSP implementation period. Recharge and supply projects' costs have not been included in this analysis, but their present value costs would also increase because they would be implemented sooner.
- Pumping costs are lower in the immediate demand reduction scenario because, by definition, the average annual overdraft is eliminated immediately. The effect (smaller DTW and lower pumping cost) is carried throughout the remaining years of GSP implementation and in perpetuity.
- Well replacement costs occur in the GSP implementation scenario but are not required in the immediate demand reduction scenario.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The value of water depends on future crop market conditions. Note that a higher value (greater than \$230 per acre-foot applied in this TM) would further increase the cost of accelerated demand management relative to avoided well replacement and additional pumping costs.

Madera Subbasin Domestic Well Mitigation Economic Analysis Update

• The net effect of these differences in costs results in the GSP implementation scenario having a substantial cost advantage (by about \$120 million in present value, or 27 percent) over the immediate demand reduction scenario. In other words, the Madera Subbasin is better off (i.e., realizes benefits that exceed costs) implementing its phased GSP implementation plan and developing/funding the domestic well mitigation program to replace impacted wells than it is if it were to implement immediate demand reduction to avoid dewatering any domestic wells.

Table 1 summarizes the results of the economic analysis. All values are expressed in present value terms. The first two rows show the number of and cost to replace wells estimated to go dry in each scenario. The next rows present the pumping cost savings of the immediate demand reduction scenario relative to the GSP implementation scenario, broken down by domestic pumping and agricultural pumping. The next row shows the demand management costs. For the GSP implementation scenario, demand management is phased in at two percent per year initially, increasing to 6 percent per year until full demand management is reached by 2040. In contrast, the immediate demand reduction scenario implements the full demand management required in 2020, resulting in substantially higher demand management costs.

	<b>GSP</b> Implementation with Well Replacement	<b>Immediate</b> Demand <b>Reduction</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Domestic Well Replacement			
Number	1,578	0	1578
Cost, PV	\$38.64	\$0.0	\$38.64
Pumping Cost (Savings), PV			
Domestic	<b>NA</b>	$-$ \$6.41	\$6.41
Agricultural	<b>NA</b>	$-$ \$86.11	\$86.11
Demand Mgmt. Cost, PV	\$449.76	\$701.74	$-$ \$251.98
Total Cost, PV*	\$488.41	\$609.23	$-$120.82$

**Table 1. Costs of GSP Implementation Scenario Compared to Costs of Immediate Demand Reduction Scenario - Summary Results for Madera Subbasin, Present Value (\$ in Millions)** 

\* Totals may not add exactly due to rounding.

#### **Discussion**

Results indicate that the cost of implementing demand management on a faster trajectory (in this case, in year one of the implementation period) would not be cost effective from a subbasin-wide perspective. The avoided costs (fewer domestic wells requiring replacement) would be small (\$39 million) relative to the additional lost agricultural net return<sup>5</sup> from immediate implementation (\$252 million) for the Madera Subbasin, even after accounting for pumping cost savings (\$93 million). The general conclusions are robust to the assumptions used. That is, results are not sensitive to reasonable ranges in key assumptions,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Note that demand management would result in additional economic impacts to other county businesses and industries. These additional indirect impacts are not considered in this updated analysis but would only further support its conclusions.

including the loss in net return per acre-foot of demand management, the total level of demand management, when demand management begins to scale in, or the cost of replacing a domestic well.

This analysis only compares the cost of well replacement to net costs of immediate demand management implementation; it has not considered the timing of other projects such as new surface water supplies or groundwater recharge. That comparison is not possible with current information, and the GSP implementation schedule already reflects an aggressive timeline for project implementation. The cost (in present value) of accelerating implementation of projects has also not been included here. The additional cost of accelerating a recharge project by, say five years, would be the increased present value of the project's capital and O&M cost stream. Costs of new supply and recharge projects have not been accelerated, so the present value of costs for immediate implementation is underestimated. Simply stated, including these additional costs would further support the conclusions of this analysis.

### **ATTACHMENT 2**

**Madera Subbasin – Evaluation of DWR Household Water Supply Shortage Reports and Self-Help Enterprises Tank Water Participants**





### **INTRODUCTION**

To support efforts related to implementing the Madera Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), the Subbasin completed a Domestic Well Inventory project that identified potential domestic wells in the Subbasin and analyzed potential impacts to domestic wells caused by lowering of groundwater levels historically and during the 20-year GSP implementation period starting in 2020. The Domestic Well Inventory for the Madera Subbasin compiled information on domestic wells in the Subbasin from Well Completion Reports and County well permit datasets and compared these data to modeled groundwater levels in the Subbasin from the GSP over the period from 2014 through 2040. During development of the GSP, historical and future groundwater levels throughout the Subbasin were modeled based on historical conditions and projected future conditions. This memorandum summarizes a review of records in the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Household Water Supply Shortage Reporting System and also participants in the Self-Help Enterprises (SHE) Tank Water Program and includes a comparison of these two datasets with the results from analyses of domestic well impacts conducted as part of the Madera Subbasin Domestic Well Inventory.

### **DWR HOUSEHOLD WATER SUPPLY SHORTAGE REPORTING SYSTEM**

#### **Overview of the Household Water Supply Shortage Reporting System**

The DWR Household Water Supply Shortage Reporting System [\(https://mydrywell.water.ca.gov/report/\)](https://mydrywell.water.ca.gov/report/) is a site for reporting of problems with private (self-managed, not served by public water system) household water supplies. The site was initially created in 2014 as part of drought emergency response efforts and continues to be used to collect information on household water supply shortages from private well or surface water sources. The data in the reporting system reflect information on water supply shortage issues voluntarily submitted by private, local, state, federal, and non-governmental individuals

and organizations. Because the data do not undergo review or quality control by DWR, the reported information is not suggested to be complete in its accounting for all water supply shortages and it is also noted by DWR that there may be errors and omissions in data, duplicate entries, and records for nonhousehold related water supply issues. Furthermore, during review of the data, many incomplete and inconsistent records were noted, with many reports providing very little detail for use in understanding the cause of the issue reported. There are a variety of potential causes for issues related to the quantity or quality of water produced by a well, and this can include issues related to the well pump, water distribution system, or the well structure, without relationship to groundwater conditions in the aquifer.

The submission of information to the Household Water Supply Shortage Reporting System is done through completion of a report submittal form [\(https://mydrywell.water.ca.gov/report/public/form\)](https://mydrywell.water.ca.gov/report/public/form), which includes questions related to the issue, including required entries on the following:

- Type of shortage: a) Dry well, b) low streamflow, or c) other
- Description of the water issue: a) well is dry (no longer producing water), b) reduction in water pressure/lower flows, c) well pumping sand/muddy water, d) well is catching air (have to wait to be able to pump, e) reduction in water quality, or f) other
- Primary use of the well or creek: a) household, b) agriculture/irrigation, c) combination of household/agriculture, or d) other
- Approximate date problem started
- County

As of January 2022, the reporting system included 3,769 entries across the state of California, with dates when the problem started spanning the period from 2012 through 2021.

#### **Household Water Supply Shortage Records within Madera Subbasin**

The Household Water Supply Shortage Reporting System contains a total of 46 reports with locations in the Madera Subbasin. The reports within the Subbasin were grouped into four categories according to the type of water supply issue indicated: 1) dry wells, 2) reduced flow or impaired water quality, 3) collapsed well, and 4) surface water problem or inadequate explanation of issue. Figure 1 presents the number of reported well-related issues by year within the Madera Subbasin. Of the 406 reports within Madera Subbasin, 330 were categorized as a dry well issue, 62 were categorized as reduced flow or impaired water quality issues, and six were surface water problem/inadequate explanation of issue or collapsed well. As illustrated on Figure 1, most water supply issues in the system were reported to have started in 2014, 2015, and 2021, with relatively fewer during other years. The greatest number of reports occurred during 2015 after multiple years of drought conditions in the area. Figure 2 shows the locations of the water supply issue reports in the system. Most water shortage reports in the Subbasin are located in the eastern areas of the Subbasin, mainly northeast of Highway 99 in clustered areas north and east of the City of Madera.





**Figure 1. Chart of Household Water Supply Shortage Report Records in Madera Subbasin**



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Figure 2 DWR Household Water Supply Shortage Reporting Data

### **SHE TANK WATER PROGRAM PARTICIPANT DATA**

#### **Overview of the SHE Tank Water Participant Data**

The SHE Tank Water Program provides a temporary water supply solution for households experiencing a well water shortage in eight counties in and adjacent to the San Joaquin Valley: Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Stanislaus, and Tulare. The SHE Water Tank Program assists households experiencing well water shortages by installing a water tank and hauling water and filling the tank to restore access to water for the home. The SHE Tank Water Program is intended as a short-term solution to provide participants access to water for one year while working towards a long-term solution. Data on participants in the SHE Water Tank Program as of January 2022 were provided by SHE [\(https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=377849cbc9c54046917d864a635e967](https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=377849cbc9c54046917d864a635e9674&extent=-120.0525,34.8083,-117.2593,36.0392) [4&extent=-120.0525,34.8083,-117.2593,36.0392\)](https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=377849cbc9c54046917d864a635e9674&extent=-120.0525,34.8083,-117.2593,36.0392). As of January 2022, the SHE Tank Water Program includes 769 participants in the eight-county area served by the program. The available Tank Water Program participant data only provide locations for participants without other attributes indicating the date or type of issue necessitating the reliance on tank water. There are a variety of potential causes for issues related to the quantity or quality of water produced by a well, and this can include issues related to the well pump, water distribution system, or the well structure, without relationship to groundwater conditions in the aquifer.

#### **SHE Tank Water Participants within Madera Subbasin**

The SHE Tank Water Program covers eight counties within the San Joaquin Valley, along with some areas located outside of the San Joaquin Valley and outside of DWR-designated groundwater basins (e.g., foothill areas). The SHE Tank Water Program includes 239 participants within the Madera Subbasin. Figure 3 presents a map of the Tank Water Program participants within the Madera Subbasin. As illustrated on Figure 3, most of the Tank Water Program participants in the Madera Subbasin are located in clustered areas generally north and east of the City of Madera. Figure 4 is a map comparing the locations of SHE Tank Water participants and dry wells in the DWR Household Water Supply Shortage dataset. The spatial distribution of Tank Water participants and dry wells reported in the DWR dataset are very similar and likely include some of the same wells, although no information is available to evaluate such direct relationships in the two datasets.



Page





Figure 3 **Locations of Self Help Enterprises Tank Water Participants** 

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Figure 4 **Comparison of SHE Tank Water Participants and DWR Dry Well Reports** 



# **COMPARISONS OF DWR DRY WELL RECORDS AND SHE TANK PARTICIPANTS WITH ANALYSES OF DRY WELLS FROM THE DOMESTIC WELL INVENTORY**

Analyses of potential domestic well impacts in the Domestic Well Inventory were conducted at five-year intervals based on modeled groundwater levels across the Subbasin. To understand differences between dry wells reported to the Household Water Supply Shortage Reporting System and also SHE Tank Water Program participants in relation to estimates of potential dry wells from the Madera Subbasin Domestic Well Inventory analyses, the spatial distribution of dry wells in the Household Water Supply Shortage Reporting System dataset and Tank Water Participants were compared with modeled dry wells over the period from 2015 through 2024.

The comparisons presented in this TM are intended to provide a general sense for the spatial distribution of the different datasets, recognizing the datasets present different types of information related to domestic well issues. As noted above, there are a variety of potential causes for a well experiencing issues related to the quantity of water produced by a well that may be unrelated to groundwater conditions in the aquifer. Some of these issues may be reflected in the DWR Water Supply Shortage Reports and SHE Tank Water Program participants list. It is also likely that many households with wells that have gone dry have not reported such occurrences to the DWR Household Water Supply Shortage Reporting System and many of these households have also not participated in the SHE Tank Water Program. As described in the technical memorandum summarizing the Madera Subbasin Domestic Well Inventory, analyses of potential dry domestic wells in the Domestic Well Inventory are based only on the relationship between available well construction (e.g., screen depth and total well depth) and simulated groundwater levels at each domestic well location.

### **Comparison of DWR Dry Well Records with Modeled Dry Wells in the Domestic Well Inventory**

Maps comparing dry well records in DWR's Household Water Supply Reporting System with dry wells modeled as part of the Domestic Well Inventory are presented in Figures 5 and 6. Figure 5 presents a comparison of all reported dry wells in DWR's system (2012 through 2021) with modeled dry wells estimated for the period 2015 through 2024 in the Domestic Well Inventory. Figure 6 presents a comparison of reported dry wells during the years 2015 through 2019 in DWR's system with modeled dry wells between 2015 and 2019 in the Domestic Well Inventory. Figure 6 provides a more direct spatial comparison of dry wells in the two datasets over the same five-year period, whereas Figure 5 presents an overview of the spatial relationship between the two datasets spanning a longer timeframe. Although there are considerably more modeled dry wells than reports of dry wells in DWR's system in either comparison, the spatial patterns in the two datasets show many similarities, with most modeled dry wells and reports of dry wells occurring in clustered areas to the north and east of the City of Madera. Some of the differences in locations between the modeled dry wells and reported dry wells in Figures 5 and 6 are likely a result of differing resolutions of locational information available in the two datasets.

Page





Figure 5 **Comparison of DWR Dry Well Reports with** Modeled Dry Wells Between 2015 and 2024

Page 2





Figure 6 **Comparison of DWR Dry Well Reports with** Modeled Dry Wells Between 2105 and 2019

## **Comparison of SHE Tank Water Participants with Modeled Dry Wells in the Domestic Well Inventory**

A map comparing SHE Tank Well Participants with dry wells modeled as part of the Madera Subbasin Domestic Well Inventory are presented in Figure 7. Figure 7 presents a comparison of all SHE Tank Water Program participants in the Subbasin as of January 2022 with modeled dry wells estimated for the period 2015 through 2024 in the Domestic Well Inventory. Although there are considerably more modeled dry wells than Tank Water Participants (as is the case with dry well reports in the DWR's Household Water Supply Shortage System), the spatial patterns in the two datasets show many similarities, with most modeled dry wells and SHE Tank Water Participants occurring in areas north and east of the City of Madera.

> Yosemite<br>Lakes Explanation Madera Subbasin chilla River  $Ch<sup>b</sup>$ Water System (State- and County-Regulated) Service **Areas nowchilla** Modeled Dry Wells (Wet in • 2014, Dry in 2019 or 2024 - Dry Start Model) (739) o Self Help Enterprises Tank<br>Water Participants (239) 44 انتز dega<sub>Acre</sub> ٠  $\bullet$  of **le Fresno River** ٠  $\circ$  $\infty$  $\bullet$  $\bullet$  $\overline{\bullet}$ ladera.  $000$  $\overline{\circ}$ 0000000  $\bullet$  $\bullet$   $\bullet$  $\bullet$  $\circ$ Ō  $\bullet$ baugh ireb au ۰ ٠  $\overline{A}$ -Clovis  $99)$ Data sources Well Completion Reports (DWR 2020); PWS SWRCB 2020); DACs (US Census 2016); Water Tank Useage SHE 2022). Coordinate System alifornia (Teale) Alb NADR3 server-01\Clerical\2020\20 **88 Grant/GISVD**



Figure 7 **Comparison of SHE Tank Water Participants** with Modeled Dry Wells Between 2015 and 2024

Note: Nitrate is generally introduced into groundwater by septic systems, fertilizers, or high density animal enclosures. Le Grand For public drinking water systems, the primary (health-based Le Grand-Rdmaximum contaminant level for nitrate as  $NO<sub>3</sub>$  is 45 milligrams/liter (mg/L). At concentrations exceeding the MCL, nitrate can interfere with the blood's ability to carry oxygen. This effect can be especially pronounced in infants, where it is known as "blue baby syndrome." E Sandy My lensley La El Nido Recreation Area chilla Henslo  $\triangle$ Lak  $\odot$  $\triangle$ Northeast Undistricted Area  $\triangle$  $\bigcirc$ CWD & MID  $\Delta$  $\bigcirc$  $\bigcirc$ Madera  $\boxed{5}$  $\bigcap$  $\bigcirc$  $\circled{2}$  $\bullet$ Westerly Undistricted Area Southeast Area  $\bigcirc$  $(3)$ ") ") ") City of Madera ") ") Water Master Plan Area  $\triangle$ **Eirebaugh** dalifornia  $\circled{6}$ State Univ-Fre W-Shaw Southwest Area Biola W Clinton W-Belmont-Ave- $F$ esno Mendota W-Belmont-Ave-CR-J1  $180<sub>msan</sub>$ -W-C-alifornia-Ave-Sources: USGS, 2008, Groundwater-Quality Data in the Madera-Chowchilla Study Unit, 2008: Results from the California GAMA Program Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, DeLorme, HERE, TomTom, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri<br>China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, and CDPH Water Quality Database 2010 - 2013 and the GIS User Com

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Note: Nitrate is generally introduced into groundwater by septic systems, fertilizers, or high density animal enclosures. Le Grand For public drinking water systems, the primary (health-based) Le Grand-Rdmaximum contaminant level for nitrate as  $NO<sub>3</sub>$  is 45 milligrams/liter (mg/L). At concentrations exceeding the MCL, nitrate can interfere with the blood's ability to carry oxygen. This effect can be especially pronounced in infants, where it is known as "blue baby syndrome." Sandy M  $\overline{\wedge}$  $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty}$  $\triangle$  $\triangle$  $\Delta$ enslev La El Nido  $\triangle$  $\triangle$  $\sum$ tecre ation  $\lambda$  $\triangle$ Area  $\triangle$  $\triangle$  $\triangle$  $\blacktriangle$  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$ ANDREW Undistricted Area #\* #\*#\*#\*#\*  $\Delta$  $\triangle$ #\*#\*#\*#\*#\*#\*#\*#\*  $\triangle$   $\overline{\triangle}$ ANAAAAAA  $\Delta$  $\Delta$ #\*#\*#\* #\*#\*#\* $\overline{\Delta}$ #\*#\*#\*#\* $\Delta$  $\triangle$  $\blacktriangle$  $(1)$  $\triangle$  $\triangle$ #\* #\*#\*#\* #\*  $\odot$  $\triangle$  $\triangle$  $\triangle$ Northeast Undistricted Area  $\triangle$ #\*#\*#\*  $\overline{Q}$ #\*#\*#\*#\*  $\frac{\Delta}{\Delta}$ A<br>
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